SECRET AVENGERS

REVERIE

> *"Successfully merges the movie Avengers with their comic counterparts."*
> — ComicBookResources.com

SPENCER **ROSS**

MARVEL NOW!

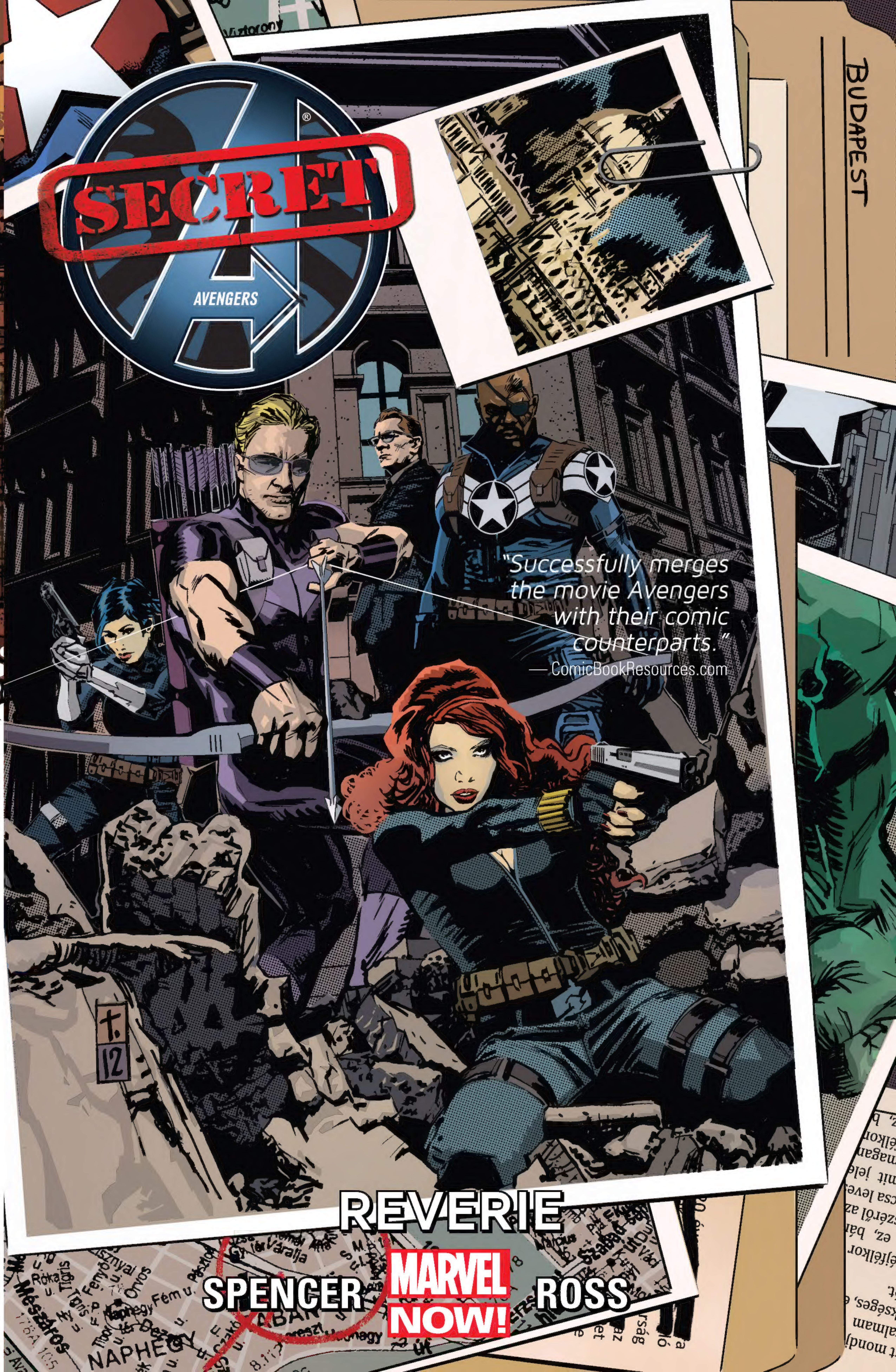
"Nick Spencer delivers a solid action-espionage story." — The A.V. Club

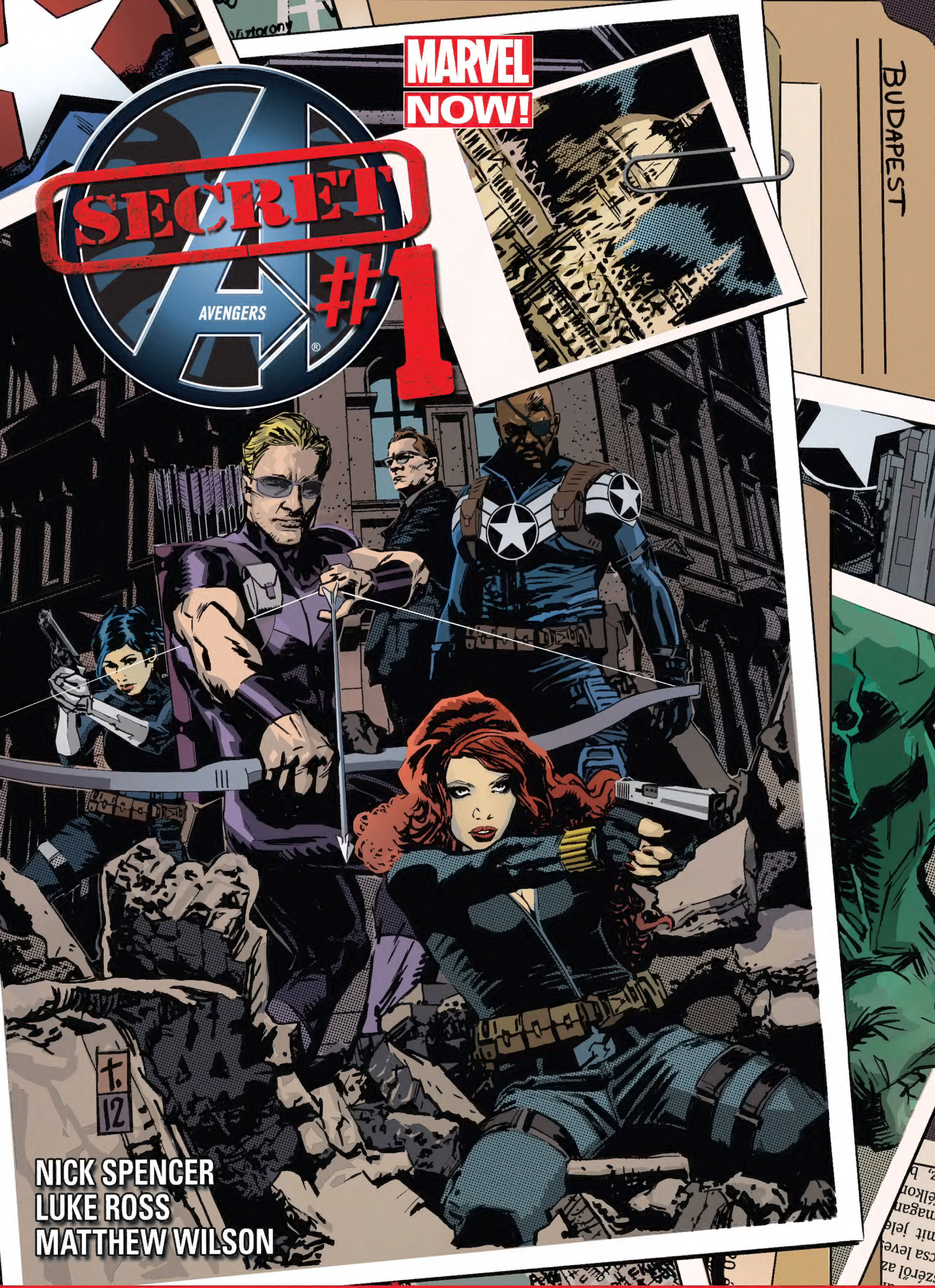
NICK FURY! HAWKEYE! BLACK WIDOW! THE HULK! THE IRON PATRIOT! PHIL COULSON!

Acting S.H.I.E.L.D. director Maria Hill assembles an all-new, ultra-covert Avengers strike team for missions so dangerous, even the team members themselves can't know about them! How is that even possible? The hush-hush answer awaits you inside! The new Nick Fury is sent to intercept the next recruit for the Secret Avengers: the deadly mercenary known as Taskmaster! But how to extract S.H.I.E.L.D.'s newest prospective agent from the only prison cell in Bagalia — the nation-state built by, and for, super villains? Plus: Learn the deadly secret of the new Iron Patriot as AIM's Scientist Supreme and new High Council launch their first attack, igniting global war — with Quake and Nick Fury caught in the crosshairs!

Collecting *Secret Avengers (2013) #1-5* and material from *Marvel Now! Point One #1*, written by Nick Spencer and illustrated by Luke Ross.

T+


SECRET
AVENGERS
BUDAPEST
"Successfully merges the movie Avengers with their comic counterparts."
— ComicBookResources.com
T.
12
REVERIE
SPENCER
MARVEL NOW!
ROSS


MARVEL NOW!
SECRET
AVENGERS
#1
Viztorony
BUDAPEST
NICK SPENCER
LUKE ROSS
MATTHEW WILSON

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

001

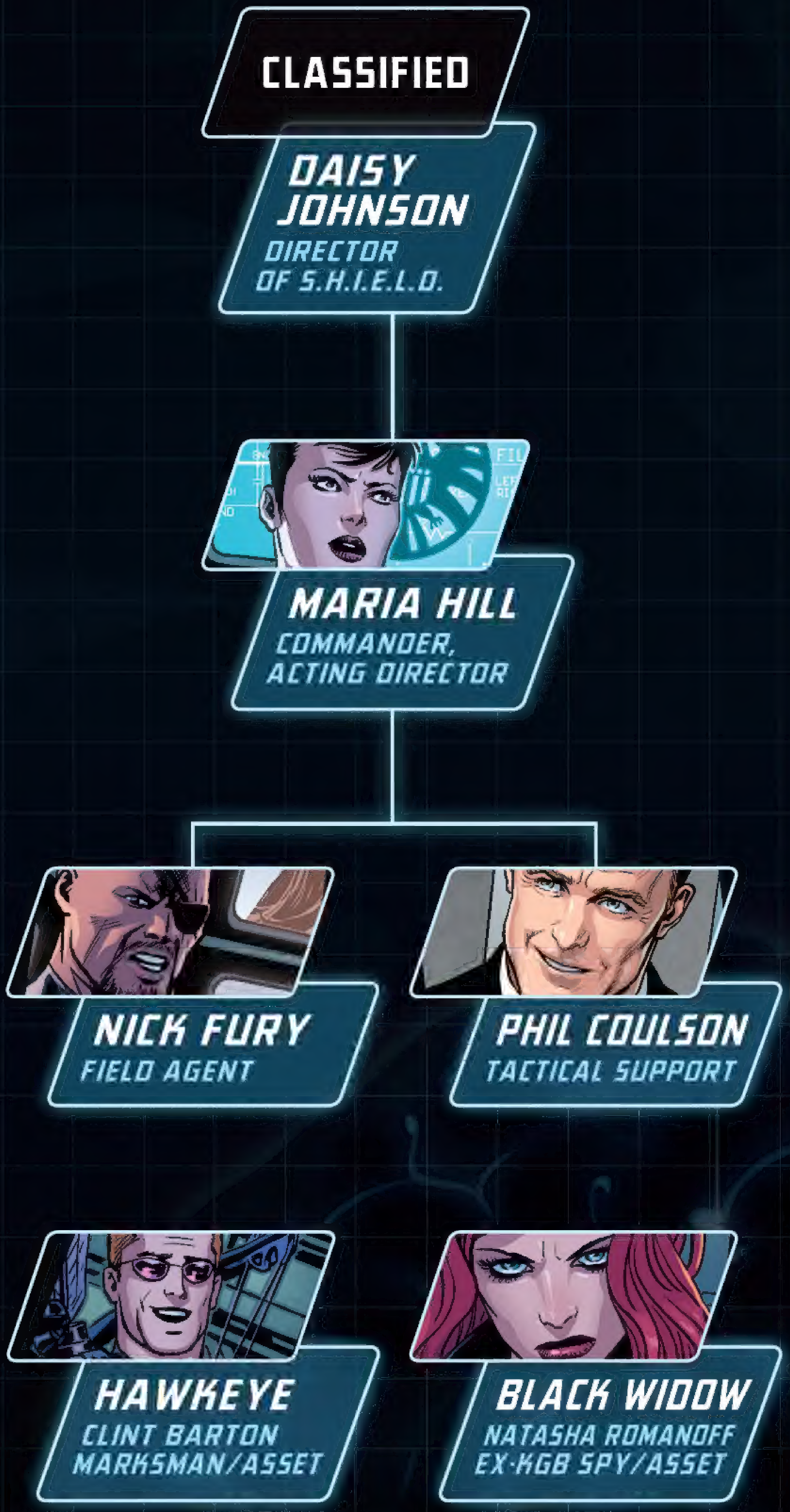
© 2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM

SECRET AVENGERS

CHAIN OF COMMAND ›››

COLLAPSE ▾


CLASSIFIED
DAISY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
MARIA HILL
COMMANDER, ACTING DIRECTOR
NICK FURY
FIELD AGENT
PHIL COULSON
TACTICAL SUPPORT
HAWKEYE
CLINT BARTON
MARKSMAN/ASSET
BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
EX-KGB SPY/ASSET

MISSION NOTES ›››

COLLAPSE ▾

S.H.I.E.L.D. [STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION, ENFORCEMENT AND LOGISTICS DIVISION], IS AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING AGENCY OPERATING THROUGH BOTH DIRECT ENGAGEMENT AND MORE CLANDESTINE MEANS. THE AGENCY IS CURRENTLY REBUILDING ITS STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE AFTER HAVING BEEN DISBANDED FOR A TIME. IN A PERIOD OF INCREASINGLY POWERFUL ENEMIES, S.H.I.E.L.D. ORGANIZES INTELLIGENCE TO EFFECTIVELY GATHER AND DIRECT ASSETS TO PROTECT THE WORLD AND STAND AGAINST THOSE BENT ON DESTRUCTION AND CHAOS.

FURTHER INFORMATION ›››

COLLAPSE ▾

© 2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

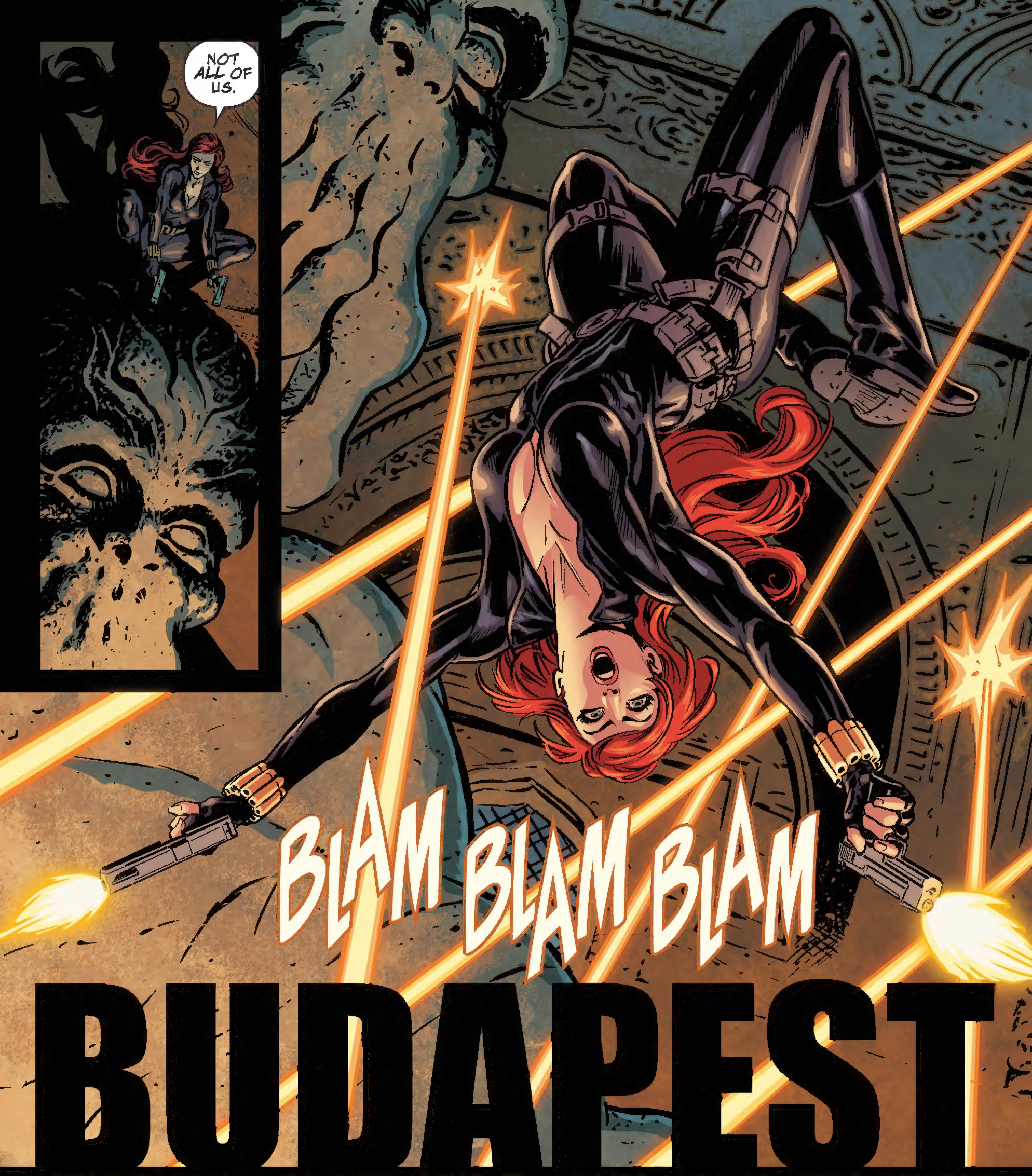
REVERIE.
...WHAT'S HAPPENING?
W-WHERE AM I?
NEM MOZOG!
NEM MOZOG! MOZGATNI FOGUNK LÖNI!
NO PLACE GOOD, I BET...

HKK-- HKK--
I RECOGNIZE YOU.
YOU ARE HAWKEYE, THE AVENGER.
D-DOCTOR... NEED A DOCTOR...
DOCTOR? DOCTOR STRANGE? DOCTOR DOOM? WHICH ONE? YOU HAVE SO MANY, YOU PEOPLE.
DOCTOR RANDY ZENOKOVICH... FULTON STREET, BED-STUY--PROBABLY DO THE TRICK...
YOU USED TO WEAR A MASK, RIGHT? A BIG PURPLE MASK, WITH POINTY THINGS AND AN "H."
I THINK I LIKED YOU BETTER WITH THE MASK.
GET THAT A LOT.
HERE, WE DO NOT GET SO MANY MASKS. HERE, WE ONLY SEE SOLDIERS. HELMETS, MOSTLY. SO YOU TELL ME--
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
HH... FUNNY...
WHY IS THAT FUNNY?
'CAUSE I GOT NO DAMN CLUE WHERE I AM.

I SEE.
I WOKE UP, THREE BULLETS IN THE GUT, TEN GUNS IN THE FACE. BEFORE THAT... I GOT *NOTHING.* THINK I WAS AT THE GYM.
LISTEN, I KNOW YOU THINK I'M LYING-- BUT...LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD HERE. PROBABLY DIE BEFORE YOU GET WHATEVER YOU THINK YOU'LL GET FROM ME. SO--
HOW'S ABOUT YOU GET ME A DOCTOR, STITCH ME UP, THEN I'LL LAST A LOT LONGER FOR YOU TO TORTURE. ***EVERYBODY WINS...***
THAT IS CERTAINLY AN IDEA. BUT THERE'S ANOTHER OPTION, YOU UNDERSTAND?
HH...
WE SIMPLY MOVE ***FASTER.***
--KK!
SP-117. DEPARTMENT 12, RUSSIAN. TRUTH DRUG. WORKS VERY QUICKLY, MAKES YOU QUITE TALKATIVE. NOW--
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I--I--
BEATS THE HELL OUTTA ME.
VERY WELL. NEXT, THEN--

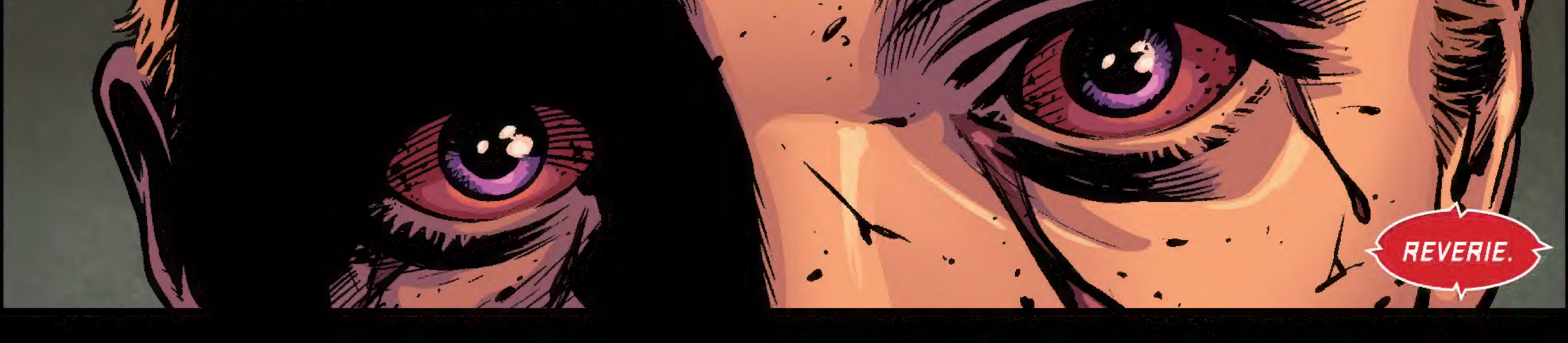
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T SHE? MADE A LOT OF MONEY FOR MY FRIENDS AND ME THESE LAST FEW YEARS. SUCH GIFTS--
TO SEE INSIDE THE MIND.
RELAX. THIS WILL NOT HURT YOU...
HE DOES NOT KNOW--
UNFF!
SEE, NOW, THAT...THAT'LL COME BACK ON YOU...
I'M SURE. BUT, MY, YOU WEREN'T LYING ABOUT THE BLOOD LOSS, WERE YOU, MY FRIEND? MUST BE DRIFTING AWAY BY NOW...WHICH IS FINE, JUST ONE LAST THING--
A PARTING GIFT FROM OUR LORD.

IT WILL TOUCH YOUR SOUL AND REVEAL IT TO US, YOU UNDERSTAND? MAKE *YOUR* TRUTH, *OUR* TRUTH.
HNNRRRR-- LOOK, I TOLD YOU! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING! I DON'T--
AHHHHHHH!
HRRAACK GNNFFFFF
NN.
HMMPH. LOOKS LIKE HE *WASN'T* LYING AFTER ALL.
I SUPPOSE THESE COSTUME-WEARERS REALLY ARE THE VIRTUOUS STRAIGHT-SHOOTER TYPES, THEN...
WELL--



BUDAPEST

NICK SPENCER WRITER
LUKE ROSS ARTIST
MATTHEW WILSON COLOR ARTIST
VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER & PRODUCTION
TOMM COKER & DANIEL FREEDMAN COVER ARTISTS
YU & GHO; QUESADA, MIKI & ISANOVE; YOUNG VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
JACOB THOMAS ASST. EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT w/ LAUREN SANKOVITCH EDITORS
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF
JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
ALAN FINE EXEC. PRODUCER



S.H.I.E.L.D. REMOTE BRIEFING FACILITY. NEW YORK CITY. TEN HOURS AGO.
--WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR AGREEING TO MEET WITH ME. IT REALLY IS AN HONOR.
ALL OF US AT *S.H.I.E.L.D.* WERE VERY DISAPPOINTED TO HEAR ABOUT THE DISSOLUTION OF YOUR AVENGERS UNIT. YOU WERE DOING SOME FANTASTIC WORK. ***BAGALIA,*** ESPECIALLY--
WELL, IF YOU'RE HERE TO GIVE US ***MEDALS,*** I SET UP A P.O. BOX FOR THE DAMN THINGS.
BLACK WIDOW'S RIGHT, AGENT--
COULSON. ***PHIL COULSON.*** WE'VE ACTUALLY MET--
COULSON. ***YEAH.*** SEE, S.H.I.E.L.D. ASKS FOR A SIT-DOWN, WE OBLIGE. BUT I ASSUME BEYOND THE PLEASANTRIES, AND THESE-- WHAT'S IN THESE SCONES, BY THE WAY?
COCONUT PINEAPPLE.
BRILLIANT. POINT IS, WE'RE WAITING TO HEAR THE *"THREAT TO WORLD SECURITY"* BIT. NO NEED TO BUTTER US UP.

OF COURSE, I UNDERSTAND HOW VALUABLE YOUR TIME IS. I'M HERE DIRECTLY ON BEHALF OF *DIRECTOR JOHNSON.* AS I WAS SAYING, SHE WAS--ALL OF US WERE--IMPRESSED BY THE WORK OF YOUR PREVIOUS UNIT--
LITTLE DAISY APPROVES, DOES SHE?
GIVE ME ONE OF THOSE.
--SO MUCH SO THAT IT'S MOVED US TO *ACTION*--
--YOU SEE, S.H.I.E.L.D. IS PUTTING TOGETHER AN INITIATIVE OF ITS OWN--
--A *TEAM,* OF SORTS--
--TO ASSIST GLOBAL OPERATIONS ON A FULL-TIME BASIS.
AND THE REASON I'M HERE IS SIMPLE--
WE WERE HOPING THE TWO OF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN JOINING US.
RIGHT... *I GOT THIS.*
LOOK, COULSON, THAT'S *FLATTERING,* BUT--WE'RE *AVENGERS.* NOW, WE'RE ALWAYS HAPPY TO ASSIST S.H.I.E.L.D. WHEN THE CAUSE IS RIGHT--AND OCCASIONALLY WITH YOU PEOPLE, IT EVEN *IS*--BUT, FRANKLY--
SERVING THE BIDDING OF A BUNCH OF POLITICIANS AND BUREAUCRATS ON A DAILY BASIS DON'T EXACTLY HOLD MUCH APPEAL.
THERE'S ACTUALLY MORE, TO BE FAIR--

DUE TO THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE OPERATIONS YOU'D BE PART OF, AND OUR INABILITY TO GRANT YOU THE NECESSARY SECURITY CLEARANCES--
--WE'D HAVE TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL *PREVENTATIVE MEASURES* BEFORE ALLOWING YOU INTO FIELD SERVICE.
OKAY, WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT? I DON'T SPEAK SPOOK.
HE MEANS MEMORY IMPLANTS.
WHICH MEANS HE DIDN'T READ MY FILE CLOSELY ENOUGH.
RIGHT, AND, WE'RE *DONE* HERE. SORRY, COULSON, YOU'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO TELL DAISY WE'RE A LITTLE TOO BOOKED UP TO FIT IN SURRENDERING *FREE WILL* THIS WEEK--
OF COURSE. I UNDERSTAND. AND AGAIN, I'M A GREAT ADMIRER OF YOUR WORK.
YOU AS WELL, MS. ROMANOV. A *GREAT* ADMIRER.
WE'RE TAKING THE SCONES.
BZZT BZZT
AH, EXCUSE ME--

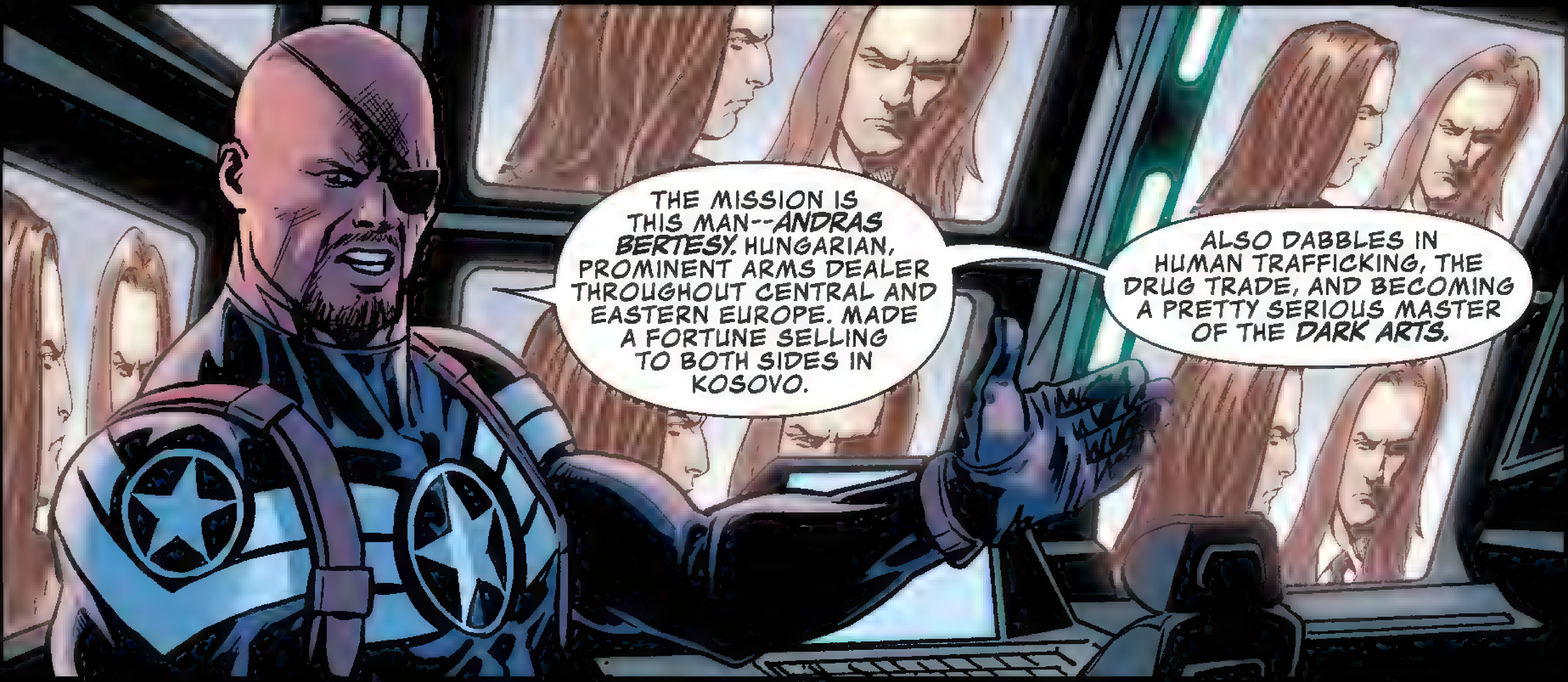
YES, MA'AM. *YES.* UNDERSTOOD. *YES, MA'AM*--
THE DIRECTOR WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN ADDENDUM TO OUR OFFER.
THOUGHT SHE MIGHT.
AS PART OF THIS NEW INITIATIVE, YOU WOULD ASSIST US ON ANY NUMBER OF MISSIONS, DEALING WITH ANY NUMBER OF THREATS--
BUT THERE IS *ONE,* IN PARTICULAR, THAT--IN THE COURSE OF READING YOUR FILES *VERY CLOSELY*--IT WAS APPARENT TO US YOU WOULD HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN DEALING WITH YOURSELVES.
AND THAT YOU MAY CONSIDER YOUR SERVICE HERE TO BE A WORTHWHILE TRADE-OFF FOR SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY.
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY...
YEAH, CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR THIS.
OF COURSE. IN THAT CASE, YOU BOTH KNOW--
REDACTED

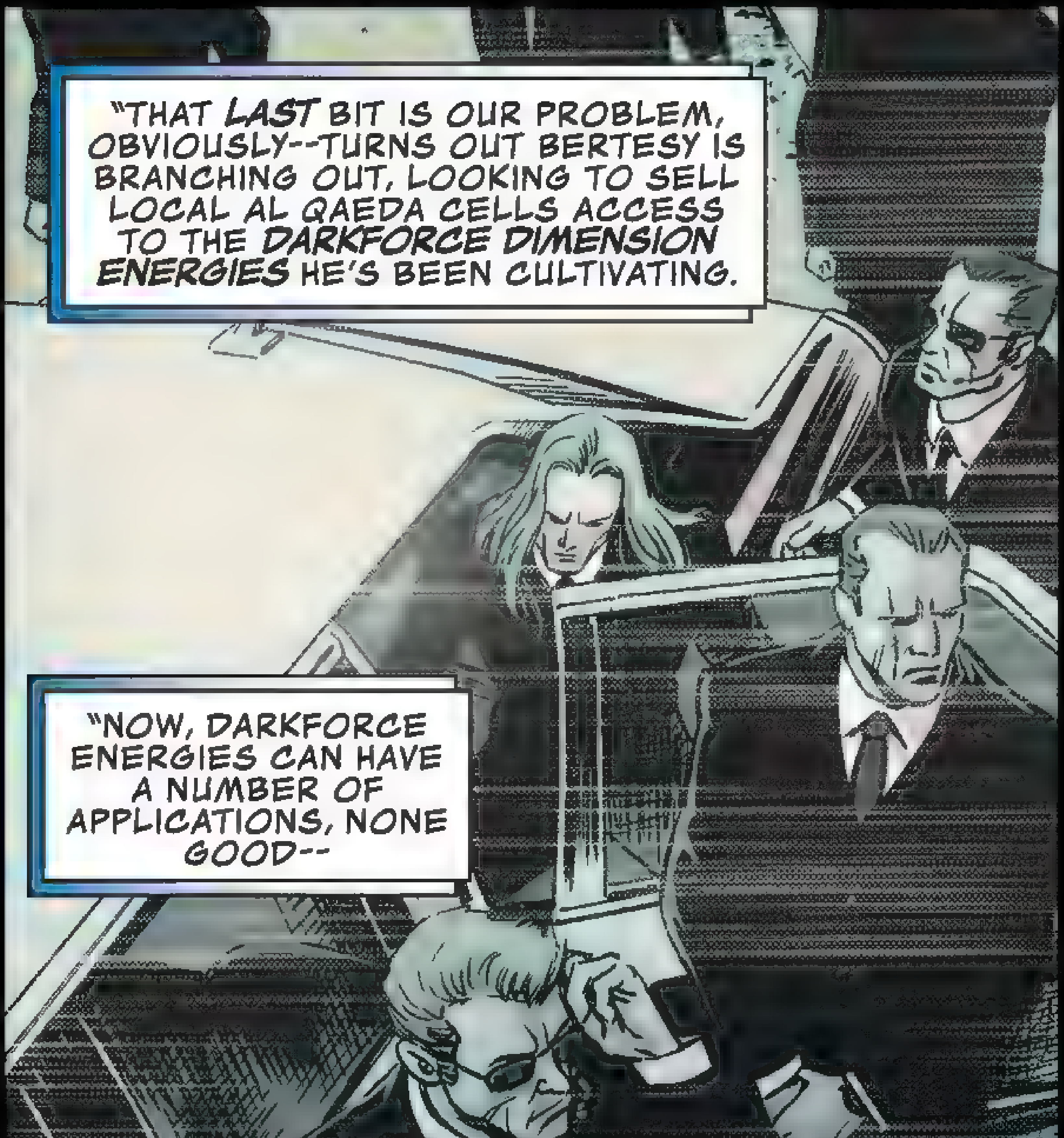
WE'RE IN.
HOW DO WE DO THIS? WHERE DO WE SIGN UP?
ACTUALLY, YOU ALREADY HAVE.
WHAT?
THIS RING. WHEN WE SHOOK HANDS, A STREAM OF NANOPARTICLES IMPLANTED THEMSELVES IN YOUR SKIN, THEN TRAVELED VIA YOUR BLOODSTREAM UP TO YOUR BRAINSTEM.
THE REMOTE TECHNOLOGY WE'LL USE TO CONTROL YOUR MEMORY IMPLANTS IS ONLINE AND READY, CONNECTED TO THE PARTICLES NOW RESIDING IN YOUR BRAIN.
YOU SON OF A--YOU DID THIS TO US, WITHOUT EVEN *ASKING?!*
MISTER BARTON, *PLEASE--*
I'VE JUST DISCLOSED SOME OF THE MOST VALUABLE INTELLIGENCE S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS, TO TWO INDIVIDUALS WITH *NO* SECURITY CLEARANCE, AN ESTABLISHED HISTORY AS ROGUE OPERATORS, AND--WHILE I HATE TO BRING UP ANCIENT HISTORY--LENGTHY CRIMINAL RECORDS.
WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE IF YOU'D SAID *NO?*

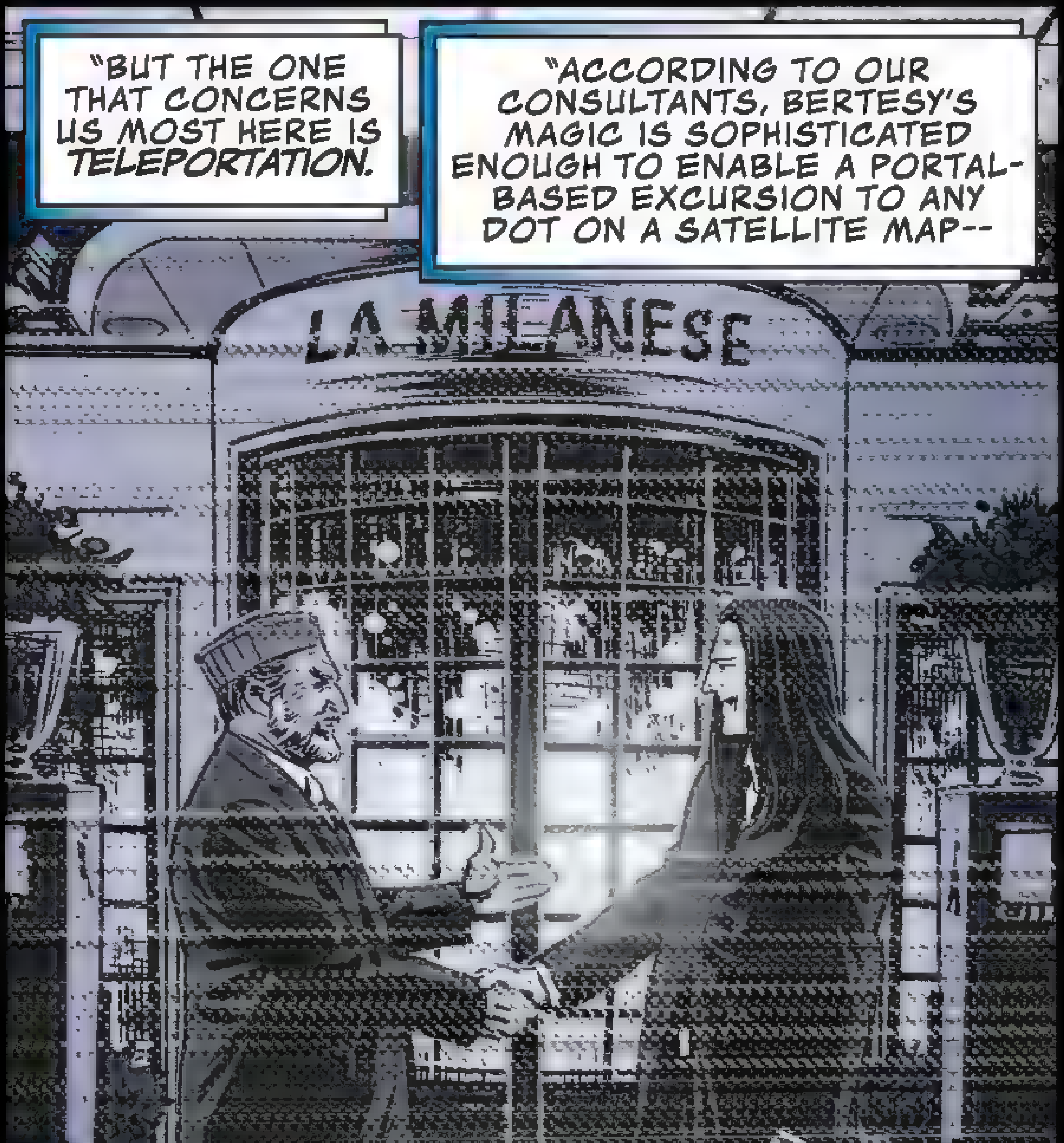
REVERIE

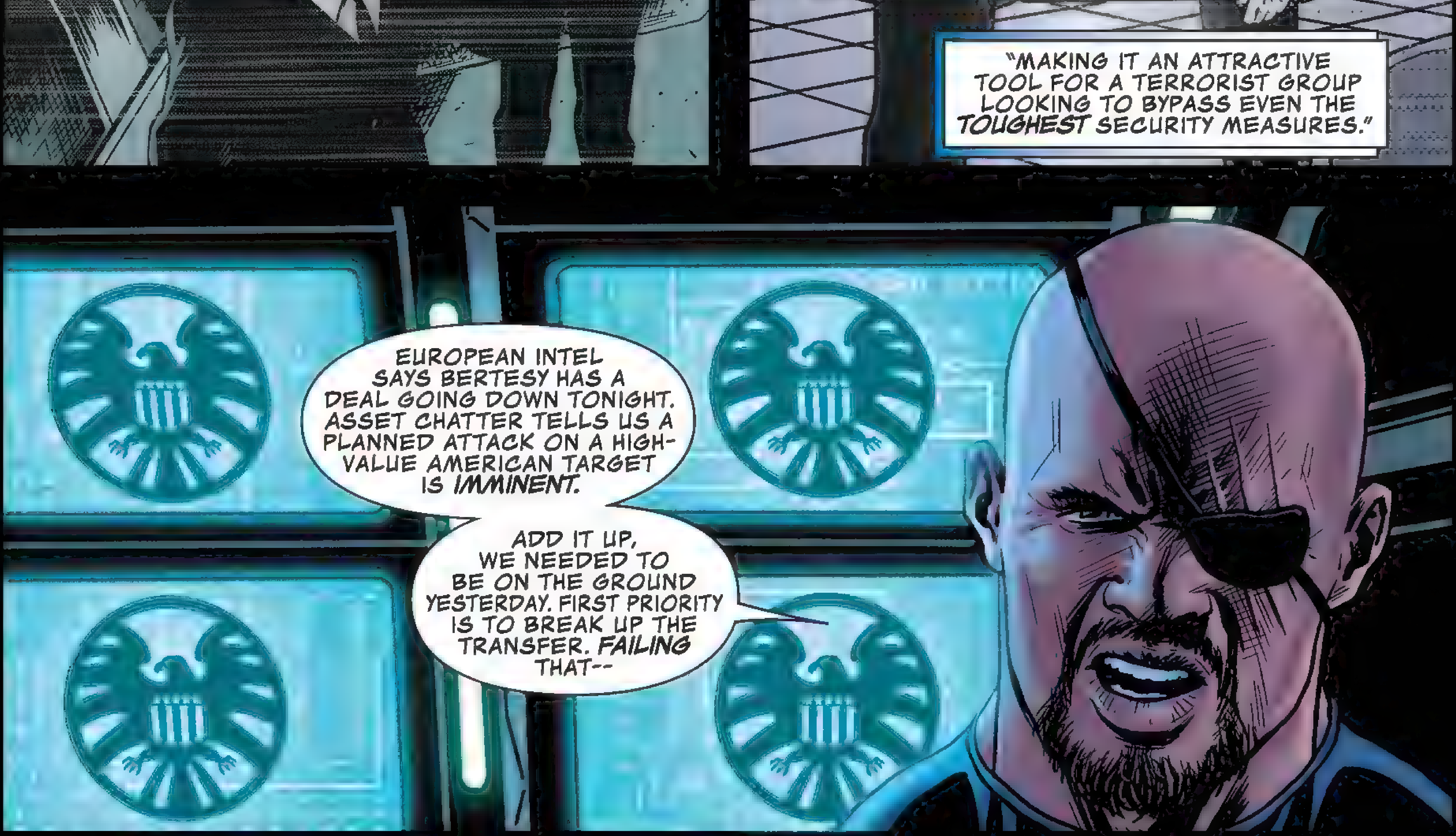
S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER *ILIAD.* SIX HOURS AGO.
--THE KEYWORD THAT ACTIVATES YOUR PROGRAMMING.
THE MINUTES YOU'RE ALREADY MISSING--THAT'S WHAT WE CALL A **BLANK SLATE JOB.** MOST APPLICATIONS WILL BE ***FAR*** MORE INTRUSIVE.
YOU YOURSELVES WILL HAVE ABSOLUTELY ***NO*** KNOWLEDGE OF THE INITIATIVE, OR YOUR PARTICIPATION WITHIN IT, OUTSIDE MISSION TIME--
AS FAR AS YOUR OWN BRAINS ARE CONCERNED, TIME SPENT WITH US IS TIME YOU SPENT ENJOYING NEW HOBBIES. ***HITTING THE GYM.***
WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE, YOU WILL BE LYING TO YOUR ***FRIENDS,*** YOUR ***TEAMMATES,*** YOUR ***LOVED ONES.*** EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIVES.
BEYOND THAT, MAKE NO MISTAKE-- ***IF,*** IN THE COURSE OF AN OPERATION, YOU GO ***AWOL*** OR ***OFF-ORDERS,*** WE ACTIVATE THE PROGRAM.
LIKEWISE, IF YOU SOMEHOW FIND YOURSELF ***APPREHENDED,*** FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS, WE ACTIVATE THE PROGRAM.
ACTUALLY, GOOD RULE OF THUMB IS--ANYTHING OUTSIDE OF MISSION OBJECTIVE, ***WE ACTIVATE THE PROGRAM.***

QUESTIONS?
JUST THE ONE. NOW THAT YOU'RE FINISHED TELLING US WHAT YOU'LL DO IF WE *BECOME* THREATS, HILL--
--WHY DON'T WE TALK ABOUT THE *ACTUAL* THREATS?
COULDN'T AGREE MORE.
HOLD ON, I REMEMBER YOU. THE *LEVIATHAN* THING. MARCUS, RIGHT? MARCUS--
NICK FURY. HIS NAME IS *NICK FURY* NOW.
REALLY? BECAUSE I SEEM TO REMEMBER NICK FURY BEING--
HEY, WAIT, IS THIS LIKE THE BOND THING WHERE THE *NEW* GUY GETS THE SAME NAME AS THE *OLD* GUY? 'CAUSE IT NEVER MADE SENSE TO ME WHY THE NEW GUY WOULD VISIT THE GRAVE OF THE OLD GUY'S WIFE--
IT'S HIS NAME NOW, DEAL WITH IT, MOVE ON. *AGENT FURY?*
THANK YOU, ACTING DIRECTOR HILL--


THE MISSION IS THIS MAN--*ANDRAS BERTESY.* HUNGARIAN, PROMINENT ARMS DEALER THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE. MADE A FORTUNE SELLING TO BOTH SIDES IN KOSOVO.
ALSO DABBLES IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING, THE DRUG TRADE, AND BECOMING A PRETTY SERIOUS MASTER OF THE *DARK ARTS.*


"THAT *LAST* BIT IS OUR PROBLEM, OBVIOUSLY--TURNS OUT BERTESY IS BRANCHING OUT, LOOKING TO SELL LOCAL AL QAEDA CELLS ACCESS TO THE *DARKFORCE DIMENSION ENERGIES* HE'S BEEN CULTIVATING.
"NOW, DARKFORCE ENERGIES CAN HAVE A NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS, NONE GOOD--


"BUT THE ONE THAT CONCERNS US MOST HERE IS *TELEPORTATION.*
"ACCORDING TO OUR CONSULTANTS, BERTESY'S MAGIC IS SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO ENABLE A PORTAL-BASED EXCURSION TO ANY DOT ON A SATELLITE MAP--
LA MILANESE
"MAKING IT AN ATTRACTIVE TOOL FOR A TERRORIST GROUP LOOKING TO BYPASS EVEN THE *TOUGHEST* SECURITY MEASURES."


EUROPEAN INTEL SAYS BERTESY HAS A DEAL GOING DOWN TONIGHT. ASSET CHATTER TELLS US A PLANNED ATTACK ON A HIGH-VALUE AMERICAN TARGET IS *IMMINENT.*
ADD IT UP, WE NEEDED TO BE ON THE GROUND YESTERDAY. FIRST PRIORITY IS TO BREAK UP THE TRANSFER. *FAILING* THAT--

BUDAPEST. THIRTY MINUTES AGO.
"--WE MAKE THE BEST OF WHAT'S LEFT."
IS IT POSSIBLE THE ONE BOND WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH THE OTHER BOND'S WIFE OR SOMETHING?
YOU KNOW, I'D HAVE TO WATCH IT AGAIN.
IF YOU TWO ARE DONE-- WIDOW'S GAMBIT DIDN'T HOLD. *TRANSACTION'S FINAL.*
WHICH MEANS THE MIDDLEMAN YOU'RE CHASING IS OUR *LAST* SHOT AT FINDING OUT THEIR TARGET. WE HAVE A CLOCK, GENTLEMEN.
RELAX, HILL--
THERE'S ALWAYS A PATTERN.
SEBASTIAN. HOW IS HE DOING THIS?

YOU WANT ME TO EXPLAIN TO YOU HOW HE SUMMONS THE POWER OF A FEAR LORD IN ORDER TO TELEPORT, OVER COMMS, IN THIRTY SECONDS?
AH, RIGHT-- WITH HIS HANDS.
NO, *HOW* IS HE DOING IT?
PERFECT. NOW--
SNAP
AGGH!
I'D BET BERTESY'S GOT YOU BELIEVING THERE'S NOTHING WE COULD DO TO YOU BAD AS WHAT HE WOULD. HE MAY EVEN BE RIGHT.
BUT I *DID* READ THE FILE ON THAT PLACE YOU GO WHEN YOU DO THESE LITTLE JUMP AROUNDS. *THE ABSENCE OF GOD,* THEY CALL IT. SO TELL ME--
YOU THINK YOU'D MAKE IT IN THERE 'TIL YOUR FINGERS HEALED?
COORDINATES.
SH-SHIRT POCKET...
THERE WE GO, SEE? MAKING GOOD DECISIONS, SETTING THINGS RIGHT--
THAT'S HOW WE TURN OUR LIVES AROUND.
BLAM
HEY!

THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THAT, DAMN IT! THIS GUY COOPERATED-- *KILLING HIM* JUST--
BARTON, EASY--
I DIDN'T KILL HIM. BERTESY'S GOT SOME BIG FRIENDS IN THE EU. *DIPLOMATIC SENSITIVITY* SAYS NO BODY COUNT, JUST DISRUPT THE COMMERCE.
THE BULLETS HAVE BUILT-IN *HEALING FACTOR* TECH. KICKS IN SLOW ONCE THE HEART STOPS. HE'LL BE BACK UP AND BREATHING IN A FEW HOURS.
SERIOUSLY?
CAN I GET SOME OF THOSE?
SURE--
BLAM BLAM BLAM
HAWKEYE!
BLAM BLAM
GO! WORRY ABOUT THE TARGET!
WIDOW WILL GET BACK TO YOU, HOLD TIGHT--
YEAH, YEAH, FINE...JUST WAIT RIGHT HERE...

NOW.
NAT?
I'M HERE.
I REMEMBER NOW... GOT SLOPPY, LET MY GUARD DOWN. STUPID--
EASY--SOME OF THE BEST MEN I'VE EVER FOUGHT WITH MADE THAT MISTAKE ONCE OR TWICE. AND NOW *YOU*, AS WELL.
FUNNY...
THE HELL AM I DOING OUT HERE? THIS ISN'T MY GAME. NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO KNOW WHY I AGREED TO IT IN THE FIRST DAMN PLACE...
THEIR GUY-- DID HE GET THROUGH?
BUT YOU KNOW THAT YOU *DID*. WHICH TELLS YOU ALL YOU NEED, DOESN'T IT?
HE DID, YES--
"BUT NOT ALONE."
SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW--

YOUR BROTHERS SOLD YOU OUT.
YOU DIED FOR NOTHING.
BLAM
WE'RE CLEAR IN HERE, MISTER PRESIDENT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.
AND SORRY ABOUT THE RUG.

NOT TYPICALLY THE KIND OF THING YOU LIKE TO SEE AT THE END OF YOUR FIRST OP.
NOT TYPICALLY. BUT IN THIS CASE--
S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER *ILIAD* MEDICAL BAY. FOUR HOURS LATER.
GOT THE JOB DONE.
STILL DON'T THINK--
NICK, RELAX. TODAY WE PREVENTED AN ATTACK ON THE WHITE HOUSE. THAT'S A WIN. AS FOR BARTON--
IT WAS A *CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT.* WE HAD GUYS IN THE ROOM, WORSE CAME TO WORSE. AND HE'LL BE GOOD AS NEW SOON ENOUGH-- HE'LL BE *FINE.*
WOULDN'T BE IF HE KNEW WHAT WE'D DONE. MIGHT EVEN BE *UPSET.*
TOO BAD. REALITY IS, EVERY TIME WE'VE PUT THIS TECH IN THE FIELD, IT'S LET US DOWN. DIRECTOR HASN'T FORGOTTEN THE *VON BARDAS* OP. DEV GUYS SWEAR UP AND DOWN THIS VERSION WORKS--
BUT YOU CAN BE *DAMN* SURE I FIELD-TEST IT ON THESE TWO BEFORE I START HANDING IT OUT TO THE ONES WHO SHOOT LASER BEAMS OUT OF THEIR NIPPLES AND WHATNOT.
GOOD NEWS IS, WE PUT IT THROUGH THE PACES-- EXTREME STRESS. PHYSICAL TRAUMA. TRUTH DRUGS. TELEPATHS--HELL, EVEN *DEMONIC POSSESSION,* AND THIS TIME...

"...THE MEMORY IMPLANTS HELD UP JUST FINE."
THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THAT, DAMN IT! THIS GUY COOPERATED-- *KILLING HIM* JUST--
BARTON, EASY--
I DIDN'T KILL HIM. BERTESY'S GOT SOME BIG FRIENDS IN THE EU. *DIPLOMATIC SENSITIVITY* SAYS NO BODY COUNT, JUST DISRUPT THE COMMERCE.
THE BULLETS HAVE BUILT-IN *HEALING FACTOR* TECH. KICKS IN SLOW ONCE THE HEART STOPS. HE'LL BE BACK UP AND BREATHING IN A FEW HOURS.
SERIOUSLY?
CAN I GET SOME OF THOSE?
SURE--
YOU CAN HAVE MINE.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
W-WHY?!
MISSION OBJECTIVE.
REVERIE

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

The Marvel Now! train just keeps on a-chuggin' this month, with the debut of the all-new **SECRET AVENGERS #1**! It's a brand-new team with a brand-new mission as creators Nick Spencer and Luke Ross guide Nick Fury and Phil Coulson in assembling a crew of operatives for global missions so secret, even the heroes themselves can't know about them! If you loved the Black Widow sequence in the AVENGERS film (and, let's face it, who didn't?) then this is the book for you!

MARVEL NOW!
SECRET
#1
BUDAPEST
NICK SPENCER
LUKE ROSS
MATTHEW WILSON
JOIN THE REVOLUTION
FREE
001

Two other Now! titles debuting this month that might be of interest to Avengers aficionados: Valkyrie and Misty Knight form the nucleus of a female-focused super-team in **FEARLESS DEFENDERS #1** by Cullen Bunn and Will Sliney! And the gone-but-not-forgotten Brian Michael Bendis teams with Steve McNiven to reveal the origin of Star-Lord in **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #0.1**! And both series come with the certified Avengers seal of approval!

You know what comic not enough of you are reading? **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE**! Want to know why you should? Here's a taste:

Dear Ms. DeConnick and Mr. Caselli,

I have just finished AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #9 and wanted to write to you immediately, partly because although I've never written to a comic before I wanted to contact you and show my appreciation, and partly to offer my hand in marriage to one or both of you, whatever you prefer.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #9 is the most perfect comic I've read since NEXTWAVE. I've been a huge fan of the Avengers for a while now, and Tony Stark in particular and his appearance in this was an absolute joy to read. Everyone was note-perfect, actually, and it's so rare, I think, to read a comic that's just so much fun and works the team dynamic so well. It's fantastic that Marvel isn't afraid to embrace the lighter side of super-heroics. I read it straight through three times, and then showed it to everyone else I met for the rest of the afternoon.

Thanks for such a great comic, and I can't wait to read issue #10!

Olivia,
London, UK

And to close us out for the month, let's do another installment of Avengers Cosplay! This is Avengers fan Jason Childers rocking an outstanding classic Hawkeye outfit!

Photo by Judy Stephens for Marvel.com

There's no denying it, Jason—purple is definitely your color!

NEXT ISSUE:

TAKING FURY TO TASK...
MASTER!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #5 ☐
THE ORIGIN OF SMASHER!

AVENGERS #6 ☐
REVEALED! THE SECRET OF CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!

AVENGERS ARENA #4 ☐
THE RUNAWAYS VS AVENGERS ACADEMY!

AVENGERS ARENA #5 ☐
MAYHEM AMONGST THE BRADDOCK ACADEMY!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #12 ☐
THE BLACK WIDOW'S LEDGER!

DARK AVENGERS #187 ☐
ESCAPE FROM KING THING'S TORTURE PIT!

NEW AVENGERS #3 ☐
THE RETURN OF THE ILLUMINATI!

SECRET AVENGERS #1 ☐
WE'D TELL YOU, BUT YOUR SECURITY CLEARANCE ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #5 ☐
OLIVIER COIPEL! AND THREE NEW MEMBERS!

YOUNG AVENGERS #2 ☐
PARENTAL STRIFE! PLUS THE UNCANNY AVENGERS!

A + X #5 ☐
IRON MAN AND THE BEAST! IRON FIST AND DOOP!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #11 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

MARVEL NOW!

SECRET AVENGERS

NICK SPENCER
LUKE ROSS
MATTHEW WILSON

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

002

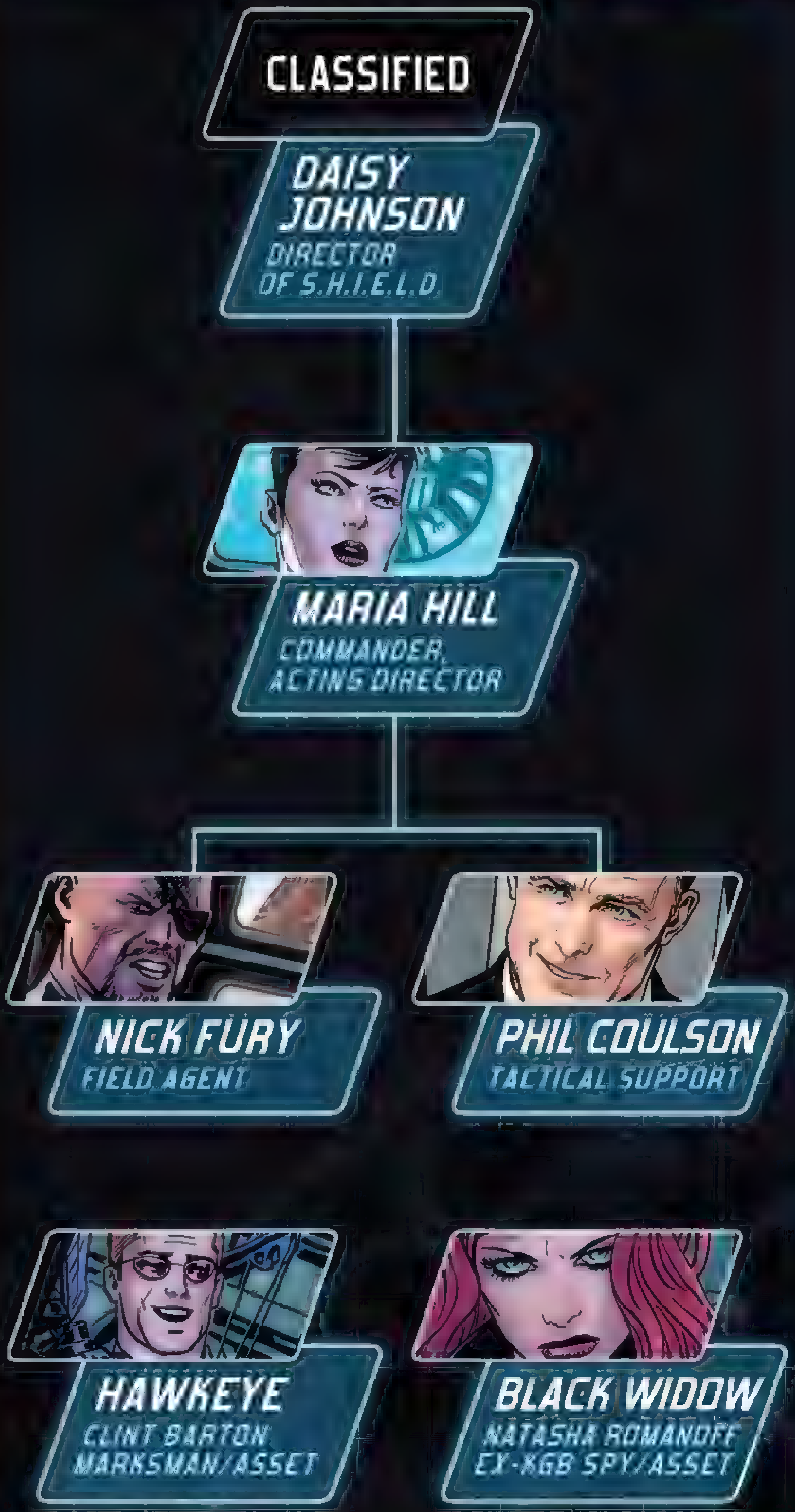
©2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

WWW.MARVEL.COM

SECRET AVENGERS

CHAIN OF COMMAND > > >

COLLAPSE ▾


CLASSIFIED
DAISY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
MARIA HILL
COMMANDER, ACTING DIRECTOR
NICK FURY
FIELD AGENT
PHIL COULSON
TACTICAL SUPPORT
HAWKEYE
CLINT BARTON
MARKSMAN/ASSET
BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
EX-KGB SPY/ASSET

MISSION NOTES > > >

COLLAPSE ▾

S.H.I.E.L.D. (STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION, ENFORCEMENT AND LOGISTICS DIVISION) IS AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING AGENCY PROTECTING THE WORLD FROM ANY AND ALL GLOBAL THREATS. S.H.I.E.L.D. RECRUITED AVENGERS BLACK WIDOW AND HAWKEYE TO LEAD A NEW, MORE CLANDESTINE VERSION OF THEIR OLD BLACK-OPS TEAM, BUT WITH A CATCH: MISSION INTELLIGENCE AND OBJECTIVES WILL BE WIPED FROM THEIR MEMORIES AFTER EACH OPERATION.

THEY WILL REMEMBER NOTHING OF THESE MISSIONS. THE REASONS THEY AGREED TO JOIN THE TEAM HAVE BEEN ERASED FROM THEIR MINDS. FACING THE THREATS TOO SENSITIVE AND DANGEROUS TO HANDLE IN THE OPEN, THEY ARE...THE SECRET AVENGERS.

MISSION 002: BAGALIA > > >

COLLAPSE ▾

NICK SPENCER
WRITER

LUKE ROSS
ARTIST

MATTHEW WILSON
COLOR ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER & PRODUCTION

TOMM COKER & DANIEL FREEDMAN
COVER ARTISTS

MIKE DEODATO & RAIN BEREDO
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

JACOB THOMAS
ASST. EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT w/ LAUREN SANKOVITCH
EDITORS

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

FURTHER INFORMATION > > >

COLLAPSE ▾

© 2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

THE GATE. A.I.M. REMOTE RESEARCH FACILITY. ARCTIC CIRCLE.
WE SOUGHT TO COMMUNE WITH OUR FUTURE.
TO KNOW THE END RESULT OF MAN, AND SEE THE GREAT CELESTIAL EXPERIMENT LAID BARE.
TO JUDGE THEIR WORK FOR OURSELVES.
WE WERE NOTHING IF NOT *AUDACIOUS.*
SIR-- WE'VE FOUND ANOTHER ONE.
EXCEPTIONAL WORK, DOCTOR SIMMONS. AND THE BRIDGE POINT IS READY?
YES, SUPREME LEADER. SHALL I CALL UP A TEST SUBJECT, THEN?
NO--NO, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY--

I WILL OBSERVE MYSELF THIS TIME.
BUT-- BUT SIR-- THE PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS--
ALL RESULTED IN THE SUBJECTS' DEATHS. YES, THAT'S EXACTLY WHY A NEW APPROACH IS IN ORDER.
LET US BEGIN.
WHEN WE FIRST PIERCED THE GREAT VEIL-- STRETCHING OUR ARMS FORWARD TO REACH THAT DISTANT TOMORROW--
IMAGINE OUR SURPRISE WHEN WE SAW IT RUSHING BACK TOWARDS US, SEEKING ESCAPE AND REFUGE--
BEARING *GRIM WARNING.*

RRRRAAAAAAA!
THEY HURLED THEMSELVES THROUGH SPACE AND TIME, CALLING OUT TO US. WE BUILT THE MACHINE TO LISTEN.

S-SIR?
HEEDING THEIR WORDS, I HAVE CAPTURED WITHIN MY MIND THE SCENE OF MAN'S OWN DESTRUCTION. THE TRUTH OF IT, AND THE ONLY KEY TO HIS SALVATION.
SUCCESS.
A KEY I WILL ENSURE HE NEVER ACQUIRES.
YES--YES. YOU SHOULD ALL BE PROUD. YOU HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH, AND YOU HAVE DONE GREAT WORKS HERE--

KNOW THAT YOUR DEATHS MEANT SOMETHING.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BOOM
WHERE TO FROM HERE, SUPREME LEADER?
ST. PETERSBURG, DOCTOR ANDERSON. THE UNIVERSE AROUND US EXPANDS RAPIDLY--
SO MUST WE.
ANDREW FORSON.
SCIENTIST SUPREME.
SOVEREIGN DESIGNATE,
A.I.M. ISLAND.

BAGALIA. THE RED LIGHT NATION.
THIS IS A BAD IDEA.
GOT IT THE FIRST TIME, CROSSFIRE. YOU WANT YOUR END OF THIS DEAL OR NOT? BECAUSE WE CAN WIPE SOMEBODY ELSE'S FILE, I BROUGHT SPARE PASSPORTS--
WE'VE GOT A CLOCK--
YOU OUGHT TO GIVE IT TO ME FOR THE ADVICE I'M HANDING YOU RIGHT NOW, FURY. THIS GUY, I WOULDN'T WISH ON MY WORST ENEMY. YOU WANT PROOF OF THAT? I'M NOT WISHING IT ON YOU PEOPLE.
TO HELL WITH IT. HE HASN'T SLEPT IN TWELVE DAYS, AND HASN'T KILLED A GUARD IN TWO.
SURE. NO BRIGHT LIGHT, DON'T GET HIM WET AND NEVER, EVER FEED HIM AFTER MIDNIGHT--
YOUR FUNERAL.
WHOOSH
WELL, WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THIS SAD SIGHT RIGHT HERE.
YOU KNOW, WHEN THEY TOLD ME, I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. A NATION BUILT BY SUPER-CRIMINALS. A NATION WITH NO PRISONS--HELL, NO LAWS EVEN--ALL THAT, AND STILL--

STILL YOU MANAGE TO LAND YOUR SORRY ASS IN A JAIL CELL.
HIYA, NICKY. LONG TIME, NO TRY TO STAB YA.
TASKMASTER.
YOU KNOW, THEY SAID THEY WAS AUCTIONIN' ME OFF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER--WHOLE LOTTA FOLKS OUT THERE WANTIN' THIS HEAD ON THEIR BEST CHINA, AFTER ALL--
GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IT WAS *S.H.I.E.L.D.* THAT FINALLY PUT DOWN THE CHECK WITH ALL THEM ZEROES.
CLEARLY YOU HAVEN'T SEEN OUR BUDGETS. TURNS OUT WHEN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY SINKS, FIRST THING THEY CUT IS INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING. NO, NEW S.H.I.E.L.D.'S A LITTLE LIGHT ON CASH TO GO FLATTERING TWO-BIT MERCS LIKE YOURSELF--
THIS IS STRICTLY AN UNDER COVER OF NIGHT THING.
I HEAR YA. SO WHERE YOU PUTTING THE BULLET, THEN? FOR MY MOMMA'S SAKE, I'D BEG YA--*NOT IN THE FACE.*
NOW DON'T YOU THINK I'D BE SMILING BIGGER THAN THIS IF I CAME HERE TO SHOOT YOU, FRIEND?
I'M HERE TO PUT YOU TO *WORK.*

THE CHARIOT.
COVERT A.I.M. RESEARCH FACILITY. ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA.
"YOU HAVE EXCEPTIONAL TIMING, SUPREME LEADER."
THE SPECIMEN IS JUST NEARING THE FINAL STAGE OF THE INCUBATION PERIOD.
I SEE. YOU'RE TO BE COMMENDED, THEN, DOCTOR BAYLOR. BUT TELL ME AGAIN, YOUR PLANS *POST-DEVELOPMENT?*
WELL, GIVEN THE SAD STATE OF THE GENETIC MATERIAL WHEN WE RECOVERED IT, OUR EMPHASIS HAS BEEN ON THE INVERSE GESTATION PERIOD ITSELF. THINKING AHEAD, HOWEVER--
ITS USE AS A WEAPON HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED. BUT IF YOU'RE ASKING BEYOND THAT, THE COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS--WELL, *EMPATHY, ALTERATION, ADJUSTMENT--*
THAT'S JUST WHAT EVERY MAN DREAMS OF, ISN'T IT?
HM. WHAT MEN DREAM OF. I COULD SHOW YOU SOME THINGS.
BUT INSTEAD, I'D JUST ASK, DOCTOR--HOW DID YOU LET YOURSELF BECOME SO *SMALL?*
SIR?

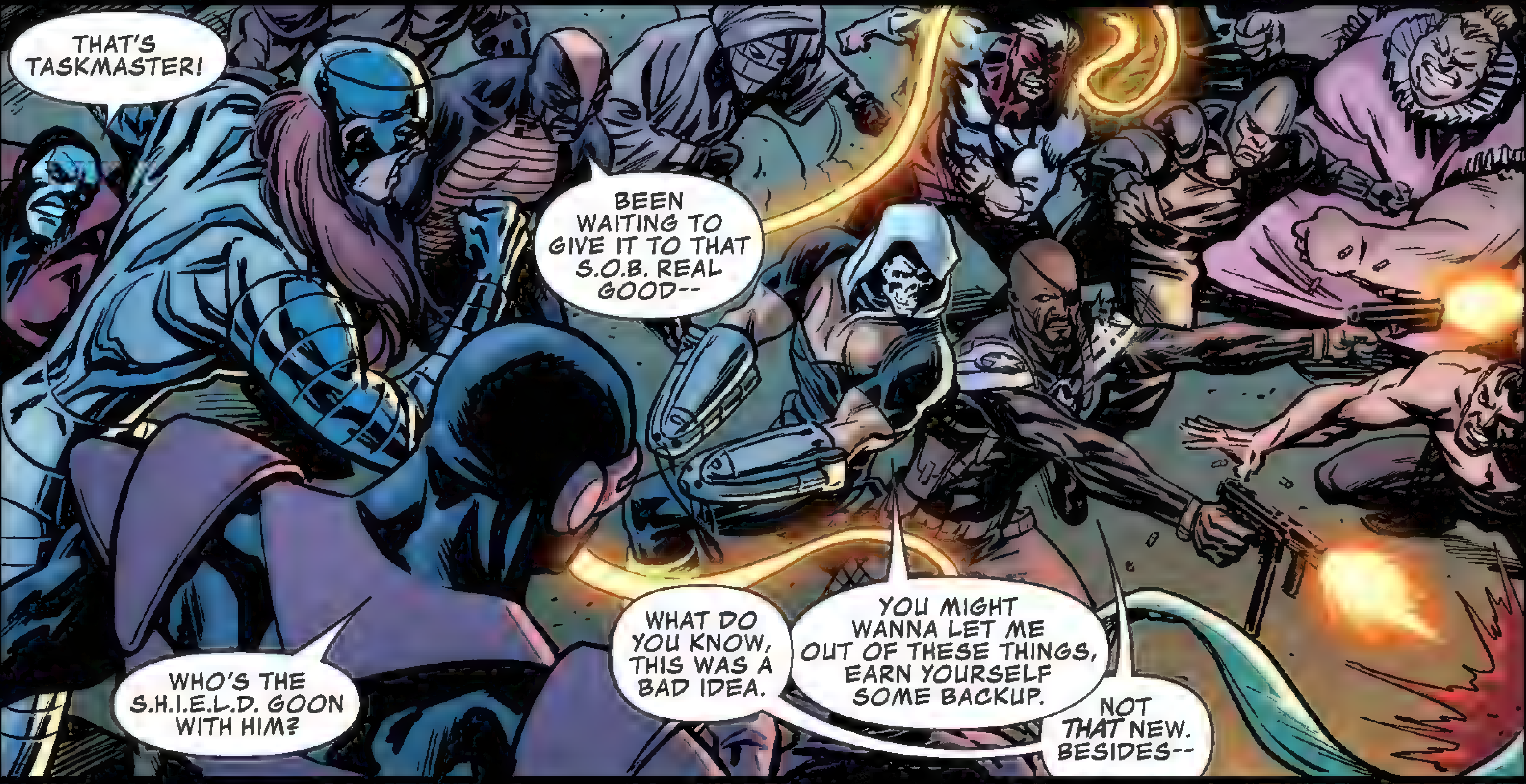
WHEN I WAS GIVEN CHARGE OF THIS ORGANIZATION, I KNEW WHAT WE'D HAVE TO OVERCOME. THE YEARS WASTED. MEN OF SCIENCE USING THEIR GIFTS FOR PROFIT, FOR GREED. THIS IS WHAT *THE ISLAND* WOULD HAVE TO ANSWER FOR.
WHERE I'VE JUST COME FROM IS PROOF OF THE PROGRESS WE'VE MADE, BUT THIS--*YOU*--WELL, YOUR LAST THOUGHTS WILL BE FAR MORE DAMNING, DOCTOR--ASK YOURSELF--
N-NO--
"HOW DID I LOSE MY WAY...
NNNN--
"AND WHY DID I EVER BELIEVE I DESERVED MORE?"
AARRGGG!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU'RE SAFE NOW, MY LITTLE SPIDER...
MY *ADAPTOID.*
YELENA BELOVA,
MINISTER OF STATE.

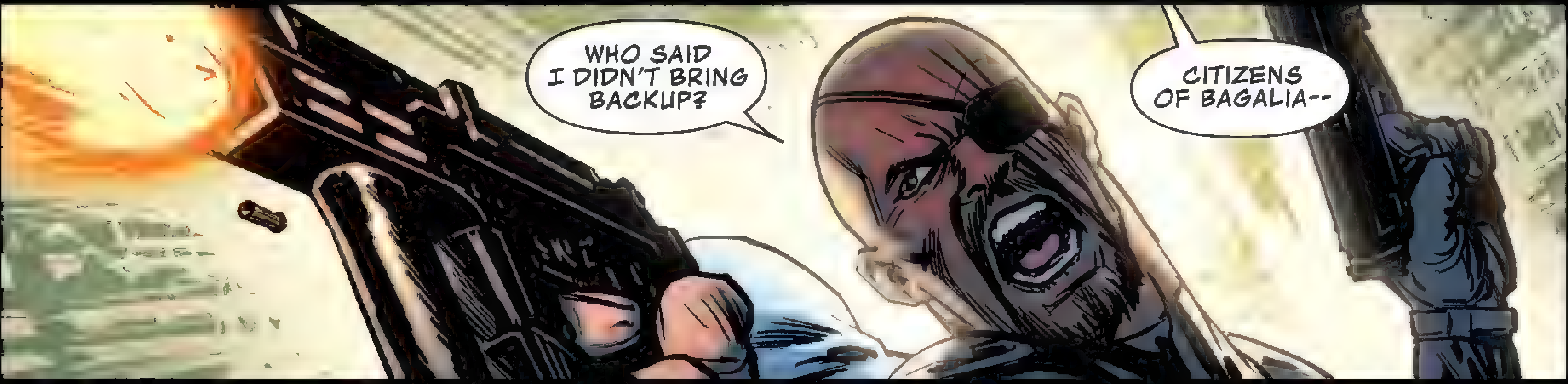
WHEN THE CALL RANG OUT, SOME CAME FOR GLORY.
MENTALLO, MINISTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.
OTHERS IN HOPE OF LONG SOUGHT TREASURE.
SUPERIA, MINISTER OF EDUCATION.
SOME CAME FOR THE WORK ITSELF--
GRAVITON, MINISTER OF SCIENCE.
AND OTHERS FOR ITS ENDS.
JUDE THE ENTROPIC MAN, MINISTER OF HEALTH.

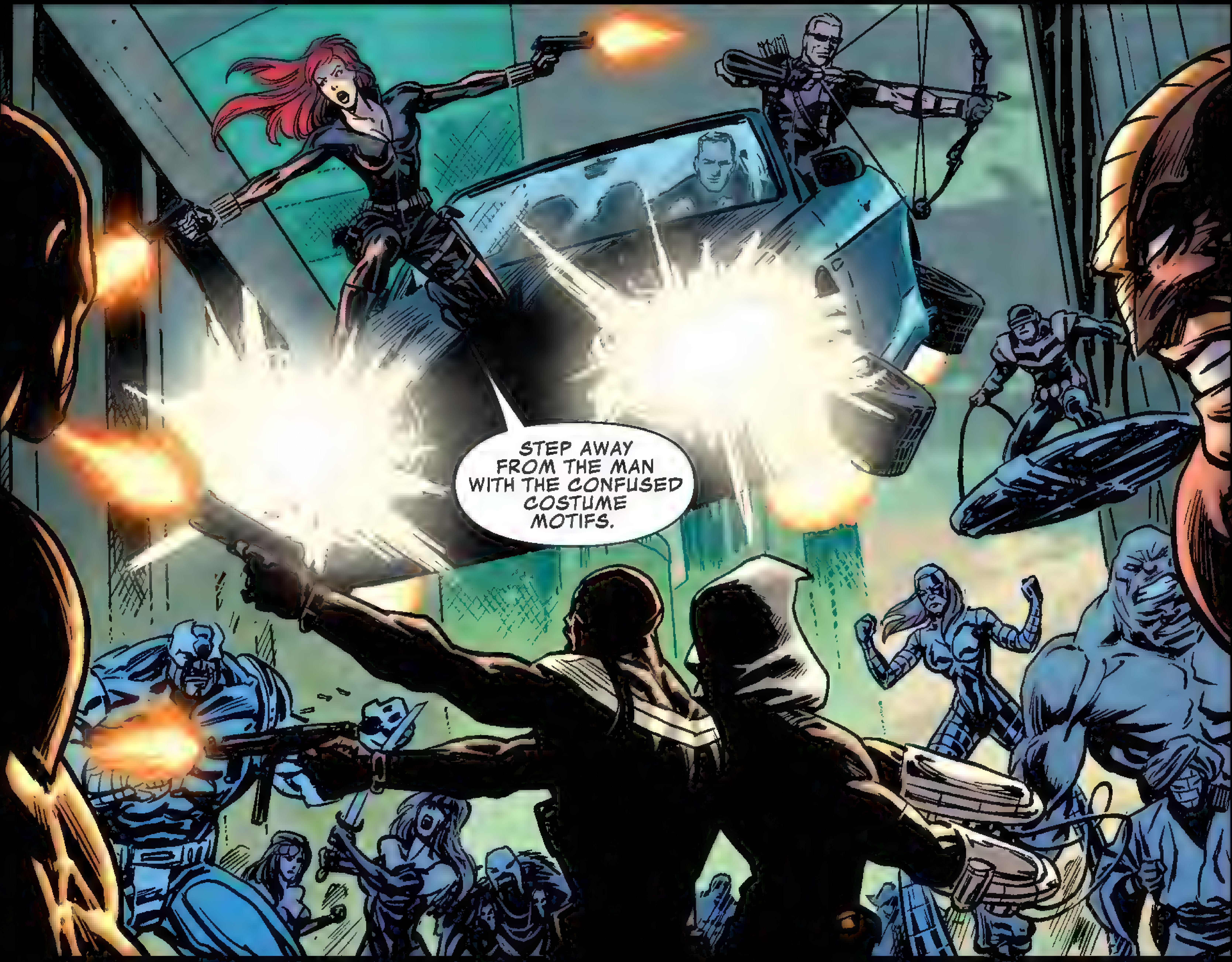
BUT WE ALL CAME TO THIS PLACE--THIS INFANT ISLAND NATION--WITH NOTHING LESS THAN *PERFECT REVOLUTION* IN OUR SIGHTS. A REVOLUTION OF IDEAS.
AND TO NEW PHILOSOPHIES OF ORDER, NEW PARADIGMS, AND NEW MYSTERIES UNTO THEMSELVES, BELONGED NEW LEADERS--
THE NEW HIGH COUNCIL OF A.I.M.
LET THE RECORD INDICATE... THE FLOOR IS NOW OPEN.

WHAT WAS THAT I WAS SAYING ABOUT THIS BEING A BAD IDEA?
TASKMASTER HERE USUALLY MAKES FOR GREAT BAIT. BUT NABBING THE SON OF THE BIG MAN HIMSELF? NOW THAT WILL NET ME SOME PRETTY SWEET ANCILLARY INCOME I DIDN'T SEE COMING.
SEE NOW, NICKY, IF I WOULDA THOUGHT YOU'D LISTEN, I'D'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO TRUST THAT MAN.
WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY?
I'M STILL LEARNING.
BOOM

COME ON--
BEE-OO BEE-OO BEE-OO
DAMN IT. WE'RE MADE.
THEN I SHOULD WARN YA, I GOT A FEW UNPAID BAR TABS UP THIS WAY--
Söze's Lair
AGGH!
TEN O'CLOCK--
BLAM
BLAM
OVER THERE! THEY'RE OVER THERE!


THAT'S TASKMASTER!
BEEN WAITING TO GIVE IT TO THAT S.O.B. REAL GOOD--
WHO'S THE S.H.I.E.L.D. GOON WITH HIM?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW, THIS WAS A BAD IDEA.
YOU MIGHT WANNA LET ME OUT OF THESE THINGS, EARN YOURSELF SOME BACKUP.
NOT *THAT* NEW. BESIDES--


WHO SAID I DIDN'T BRING BACKUP?
CITIZENS OF BAGALIA--


STEP AWAY FROM THE MAN WITH THE CONFUSED COSTUME MOTIFS.

WE'RE LOSING TASKMASTER HERE--
NOT TO MENTION HOW BAD THIS IS FOR THE SUSPENSION.
NAAARGH! NICKY--YOU BASTARDS--
THAT'S IT. THIS IS BLOWN. CALL IT.
DAMMIT. YOU HEARD THE LADY, CHEESE--
WE'RE IN THE AIR.
SO DOES "NEVER LEAVE A MAN BEHIND" STILL APPLY IF YOU REALLY HATE THE GUY YOU'RE LEAVING BEHIND?

YEAH--UNFF--
THAT'S FINE, JUST--
AGH!--GO. STUPID
S.H.I.E.L.D.--
ALWAYS KNOW
HOW TO MAKE A BAD
SITUATION--UNFF--
WORSE...
ENOUGH!
HE'S
MINE.

IN HERE. *NOW.*
THORNDRAKE-- THIS IS ABOUT THE CROWN, AIN'T IT? LOOK, I SAW AN OPPORTUNITY, I TOOK IT. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT...
OH, I DO.
CRACK
AGENT FURY--PACKAGE ACQUIRED. EN ROUTE.
MOCKINGBIRD OUT.
CAMOTECH DISENGAGED.

OH, GOOD.
YOU'RE AWAKE.
HHHN-- THE HELL AM I?
WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU REMEMBER?
THORNDRAKE HAVIN' A REAL NICE SET OF LEGS.
I THINK YOU'LL BE FINE, THEN.
YOU WERE THE DRIVER. THE DRIVER THAT *DITCHED* ME.
BUT *DIDN'T.* AND IT'S A CAR THAT FLIES. WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO GIVE THAT A SPIN?

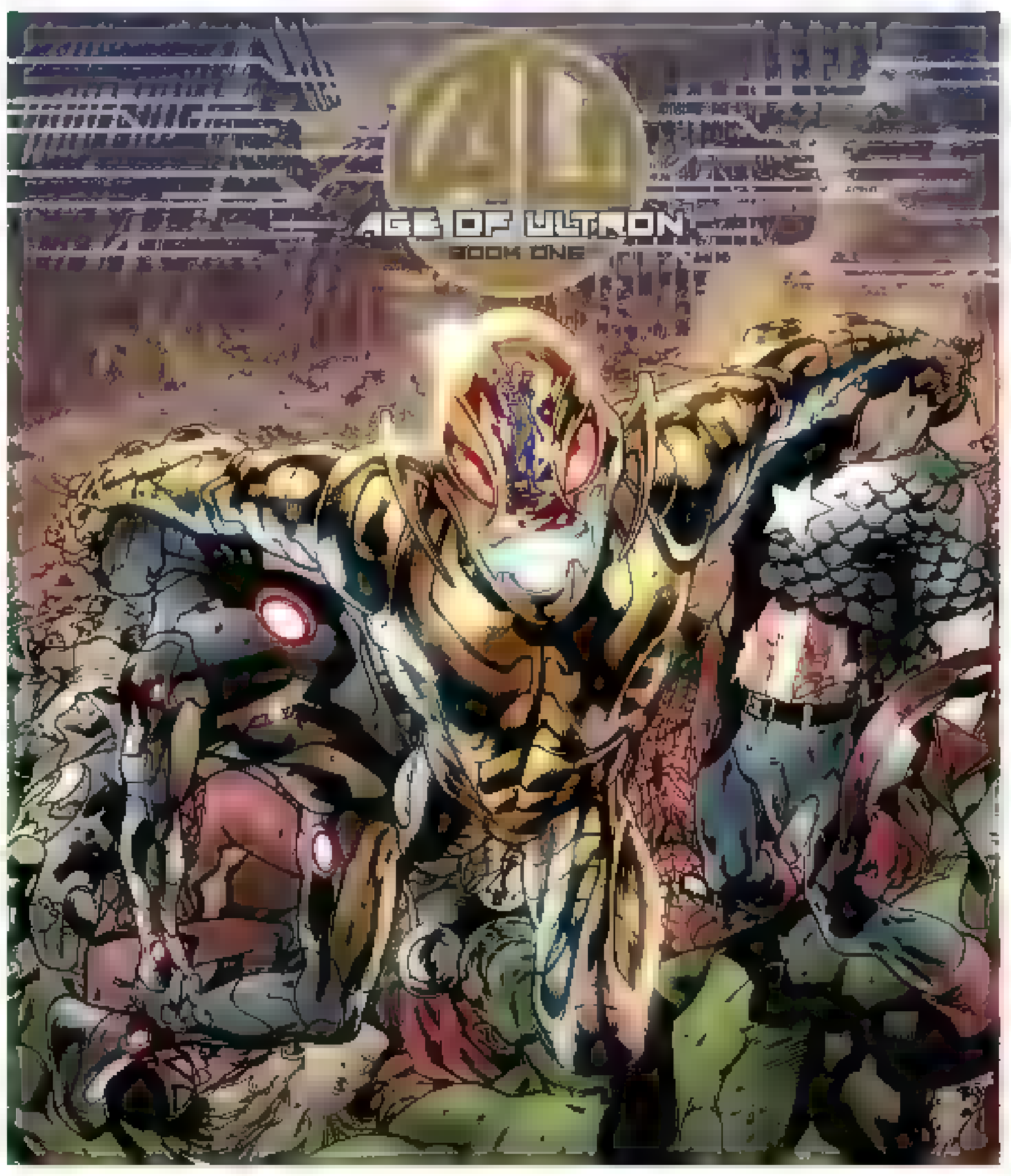
NOW, I UNDERSTAND AGENT FURY WAS ABLE TO BRIEFLY EXPLAIN OUR INTENTION IN BRINGING YOU ON BOARD--WE DO HAVE AN OFFER OF *EMPLOYMENT* WE'D LIKE TO PRESENT TO YOU--
HE SURE DAMN DID. MY QUESTION TO YOU IS, WHAT IF I RIGHTLY TELL YOU TO @#$% STRAIGHT OFF?
WELL, I HAVE TO IMAGINE WE'D KILL YOU.
RIGHT, THEN, LET'S TALK BUSINESS!
NOW, I'M JUST GONNA NEED S.H.I.E.L.D.'S CREDIT CARD NUMBER, EXPIRY DATE, AND THAT THREE DIGIT THINGY ON THE BACK--
OH. I APOLOGIZE, I WASN'T VERY CLEAR ON THAT FRONT. YOU SEE, YOU WON'T BE WORKING FOR US--
YOU'LL BE WORKING FOR *THEM.*
REVERIE

IT PAINS ME TO BEGIN HERE, WITH SUCH A BASE CONCERN--BUT THE UNFORTUNATE REALITY IS THAT *EVERY* SOVEREIGN NATION EXISTS UNDER THREAT, EVEN THIS ONE. WE MUST, ABOVE ALL, PROTECT THAT WHICH IS OURS.
AND WITH ALL THAT LIES AHEAD, WE CAN REST ASSURED THAT SOMEONE WILL COME FOR US. SO WE HAVE INVITED YOU HERE TO DISCUSS--YELENA, PERHAPS *YOU* CAN BETTER EXPLAIN--?
FOR AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION, OUR SECURITY FORCES ARE SUBSTANTIAL, AND OUR TECHNOLOGY FORMIDABLE. BUT IN THE GAME OF *STATES,* THESE RESOURCES ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE LIMITED. WE MUST PREPARE FOR NEW CHALLENGES.
WE MUST PREPARE FOR *WAR.*
YOU MEAN YOU NEED AN *ARMY.*
THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL, GOOD NEWS THEN, HONEY--
YOU GOT YOURSELF THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB.
TASKMASTER, MINISTER OF DEFENSE.
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

It's been a long time in coming—since last year's Free Comic Book Day at least! But at last, it's time to prepare for the **AGE OF ULTRON**—a monster storyline from the mind of Brian Michael Bendis and the drawing boards of Bryan Hitch, Brandon Peterson and Carlos Pacheco! The unstoppable A.I. known as Ultron strikes—and before the Marvel Universe knows what's happening, it's all over! And that's just where the story begins! For maximum excitement, AGE OF ULTRON will be coming at you multiple times each month (the first three amazing issues all shipping in March!) along with dedicated tie-in issues of your favorite titles!



This is the first month in forever that doesn't have a new Avengers-affiliated Marvel Now! title launching! So we figured this would be a good time to catch our breath, go to the mail bag, and get a sense of what you guys have thought about our dramatic creative relaunches:

I really did enjoy UNCANNY AVENGERS #1. John Cassaday's art alone is worth the price of admission.

–Chris Lopez

I just read UNCANNY AVENGERS #1 and I found it fascinating. There are so many great ideas exploited by Remender.

–Arcadio Bolaños

I loved AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #9 and am so looking forward to see what Kelly & Stefano have in store for us. The snappy dialogue and perfect characterization was a welcome breath of fresh air.

–Rachael Sherwood

UNCANNY AVENGERS #1 was AMAZING! SPECTACULAR! UNCANNILY AWESOME! I really cannot wait to see where the series goes and what arcs you guys have in store for us in the future.

–Isaac Orr-Green

LOVE the direction you are taking this book!!!! I wasn't a huge fan of Rogue but she is coming off as a very powerful character, and less whiny.

–Joseph D. Urbick

It has been a long time since I have sent an email into Marvel after reading a comic book but after reading AVENGERS #1 I had to write to say job well done!

–Scott Zachry

While I was a little sad to see J. Hickman leave FANTASTIC FOUR and FF, I´m glad he´s now writing AVENGERS. It´s just what the title needed!

–Iñigo Pm

I just finished AVENGERS #1, and as a 57 year old long time comic book reader, I have to say I was extremely disappointed. While I understand that it's simply the first issue, it seemed unstructured, "overwritten" and confusing with no clear cut point of view.

–Mike Vadis

I just wanted to drop you a line and let you know that I really enjoyed issue #9 of the AVENGERS ASSEMBLE series. It was difficult for me to stifle my heinous giggling at the hijinks of Stark and Thor vs. Spider-Woman and Hulk, and I actually had someone come over to me and ask what I was enjoying so much!

–Nikki N.

I was pleasantly surprised. The art by Jerome Opena has come a long way since UNCANNY X-FORCE #1. Hyperion, Smasher, a new Captain Universe? Pretty cool new members, too!

–Andrew J. Shaw

Just wanted to comment on how great this first AVENGERS issue is. The villains are intriguing and compelling right from the get-go. I love that the writing is drawing from classic religious references like Ex Nihilo. It makes the story and dialogue feel rich and interesting.

–Jenny Tarof

I'm absolutely loving the new era - love Jonathan Hickman's writing, love Jerome Opena's artwork - and I understand that the whole point of this story-arc is for the new Avengers team to save the butts of the old Avengers team. So you de-power Iron Man's armor, and you mind-control the Hulk, fine, fine - but in issue #2, you have Thor hanging helpless wrapped in...vines. Vines, people! Try remembering: he's not 'normal guy plus enchanted hammer' - he's 'Hulk-strong guy plus enchanted hammer.' Yeesh.

–Steve Donoghue

I am glad to see the Black Panther back on the scene and making big moves. He is my favorite character. He's also a great choice to lead the New Avengers.

–Vincent

Wow! This is one of the most beautiful books that I've seen in a long time. It's edgy and simply put, utterly brilliant.

–Brian Chamberlin

I was on the fence about AVENGERS... until I saw Cannonball and Sunspot recruited! Cannonball has been my absolute favorite character for years and Sunspot is next in line. Please let them represent the X by kicking major butt as Avengers!

–Isaac Woodby

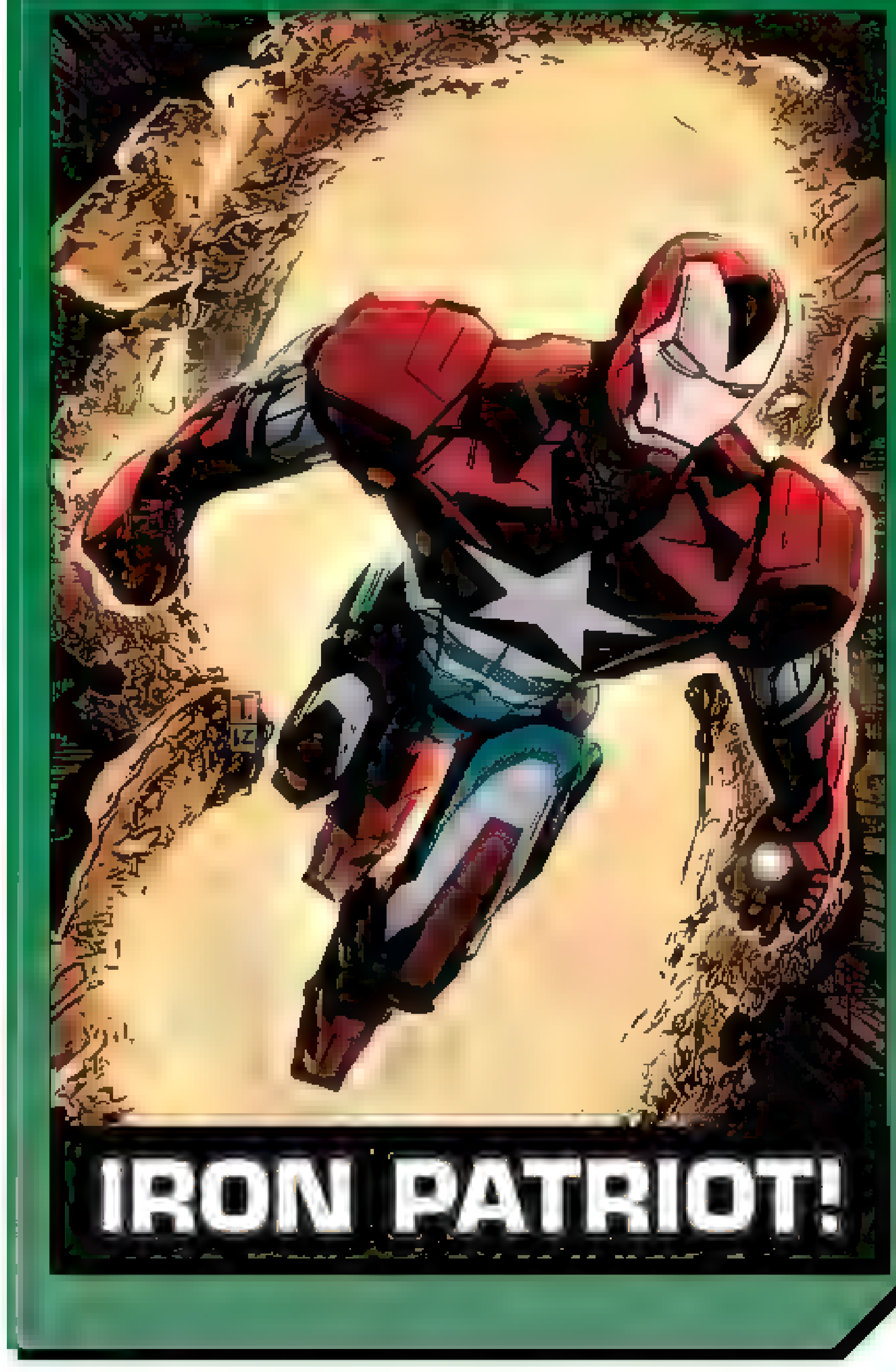
I have loved comics since I was a kid (I'm 31 now). I started collecting them again with the introduction of Marvel Now! I have yet to be disappointed. I just finished reading UNCANNY AVENGERS #3 and all I can say is Wow! That was one heck of a fun roller coaster ride. I loved seeing the Red Skull lose his hand and then Thor bowing down and pledging allegiance at the end. I can't wait to see what you guys do with the apocalypse storyline that is still to come.

–Norman Shane Noah

Well, you've done it. You have officially won me over...big time! I just finished UNCANNY AVENGERS #3 and I had to pick my jaw up off of the floor. Not only that, but for the first time in a long time, I can truly say that I have no idea what is going to happen next.

–Steven Taylor

NEXT ISSUE:



IRON PATRIOT!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE:

AVENGERS #7 ☐
THE LAST WHITE EVENT!

AVENGERS #8 ☐
WHO IS THE NEW STAR BRAND?

AVENGERS ARENA #6 ☐
ANOTHER SHOCKING DEATH ENDS THE FIRST STORY ARC!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #13 ☐
THE BLACK WIDOW STANDS IN JUDGMENT FOR THE SINS OF HER PAST!

DARK AVENGERS #188 ☐
AT WAR WITH IRON MAN!

NEW AVENGERS #4 ☐
WORLD EATER! AND THAT CAN ONLY MEAN...GALACTUS!

SECRET AVENGERS #2 ☐
NICK FURY AND TASKMASTER MUST ESCAPE FROM BAGALIA, THE RED LIGHT NATION!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #6 ☐
THOR VS APOCALYPSE AT THE DAWN OF TIME!

YOUNG AVENGERS #3 ☐
WHO'S WORSE THAN LOKI? HIS FATHER...

A + X #6 ☐
CAPTAIN MARVEL AND WOLVERINE! PLUS, IRON MAN AND BEAST!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #12 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

SECRET
AVENGERS
T. 12

MARVEL NOW!

NICK SPENCER
LUKE ROSS
MATTHEW WILSON

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

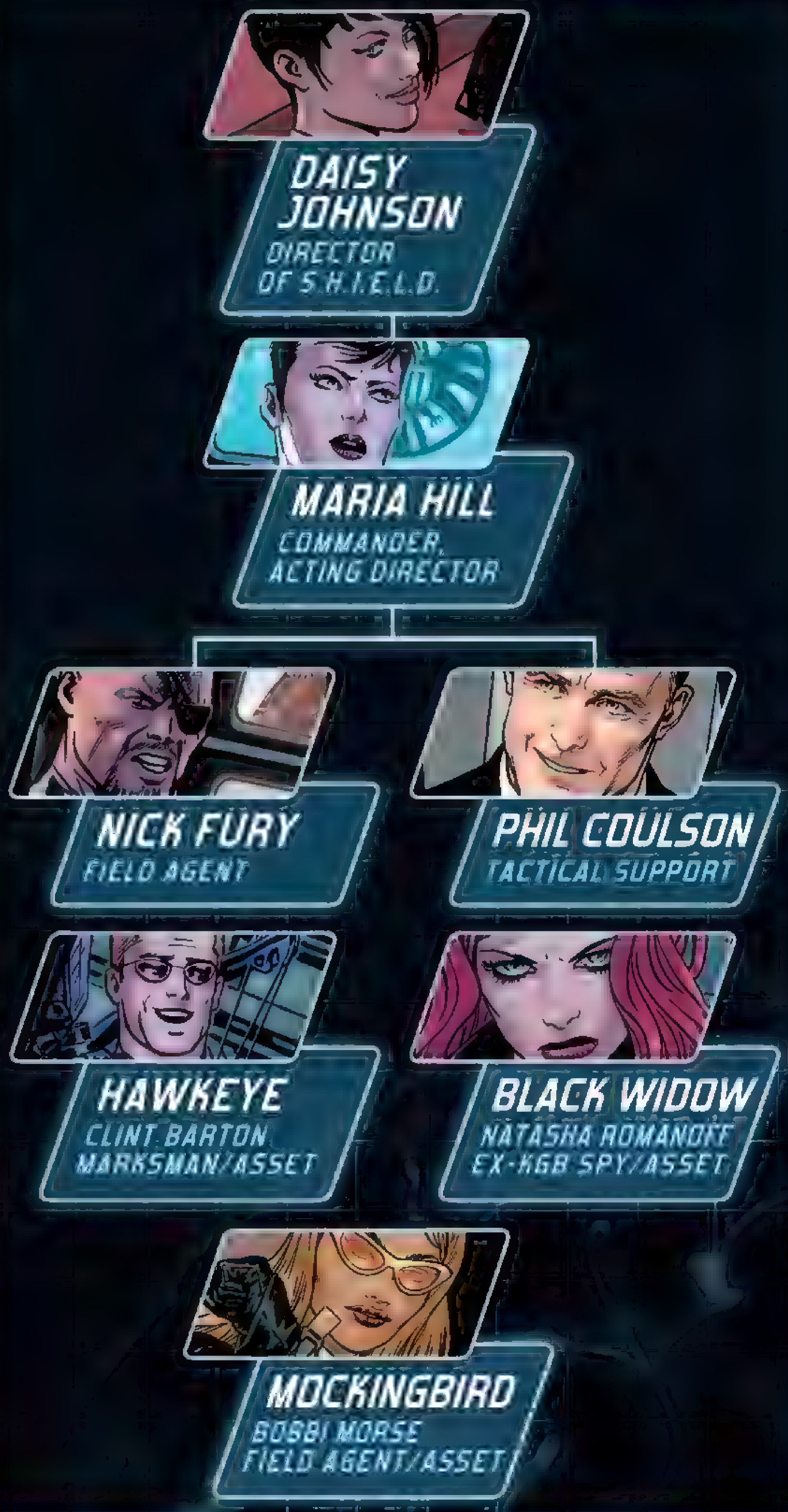
003

WWW.MARVEL.COM © 2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

SECRET AVENGERS

CHAIN OF COMMAND > > >

COLLAPSE ▾



DAISY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

MARIA HILL
COMMANDER, ACTING DIRECTOR

NICK FURY
FIELD AGENT

PHIL COULSON
TACTICAL SUPPORT

HAWKEYE
CLINT BARTON
MARKSMAN/ASSET

BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
EX-KGB SPY/ASSET

MOCKINGBIRD
BOBBI MORSE
FIELD AGENT/ASSET

MISSION NOTES > > >

COLLAPSE ▾

S.H.I.E.L.D. (STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION, ENFORCEMENT, AND LOGISTICS DIVISION) IS AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING AGENCY TASKED WITH INTERCEPTING AND DISARMING GLOBAL THREATS, USING ANY NECESSARY MEANS. S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS RECRUITED A NUMBER OF THE WORLD'S SUPER-POWERED HEROES AS ASSETS FOR A NEW CLANDESTINE TASK FORCE, HANDLING THE MOST SENSITIVE CLASSIFIED SITUATIONS. MISSIONS SO SECRET, AFTER THEIR COMPLETION THE MEMORIES OF ALL ASSETS INVOLVED WILL BE ALTERED.

A.I.M. (ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS), A CABAL OF BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS OBSESSED WITH GAINING POWER AND CONTROL THROUGH THEIR COLLECTIVE SUPERIOR BRAINPOWER, HAVE SEEMINGLY GONE LEGITIMATE, CREATING AN INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED GOVERNMENT ON BARBUDA, A.K.A. A.I.M. ISLAND. BUT S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS REASON TO BELIEVE A.I.M.'S METHODS AND MOTIVATIONS AREN'T AS ALTERED AS THEY CLAIM...

MISSION 003: ARLINGTON > > >

COLLAPSE ▾

NICK SPENCER
WRITER

LUKE ROSS
ARTIST

MATTHEW WILSON
COLOR ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER & PRODUCTION

TOMM COKER & DANIEL FREEDMAN
COVER ARTISTS

DALE EAGLESHAM & FRANK D'ARMATA
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

JACOB THOMAS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

LAUREN SANKOVITCH
EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

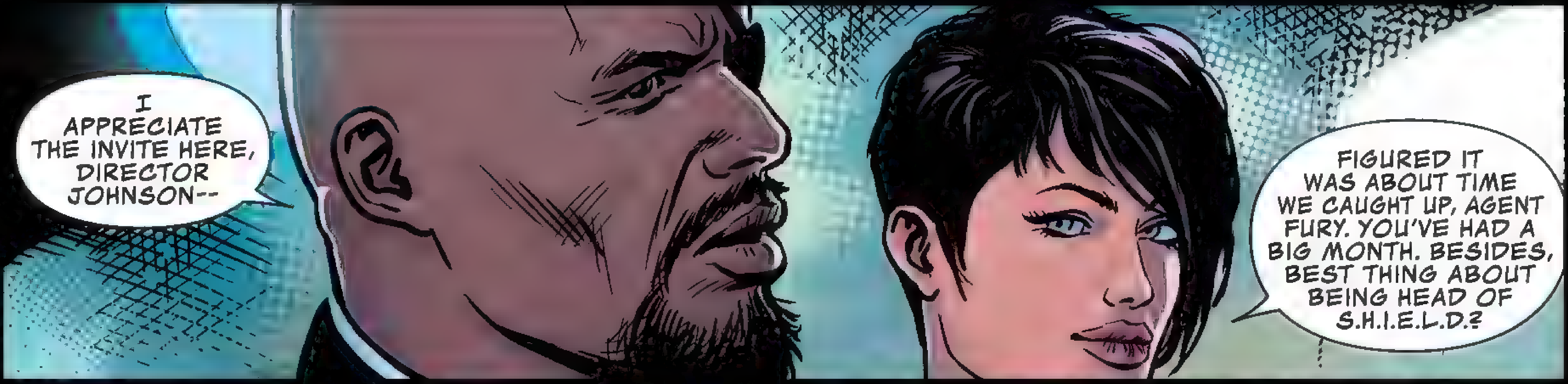
DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

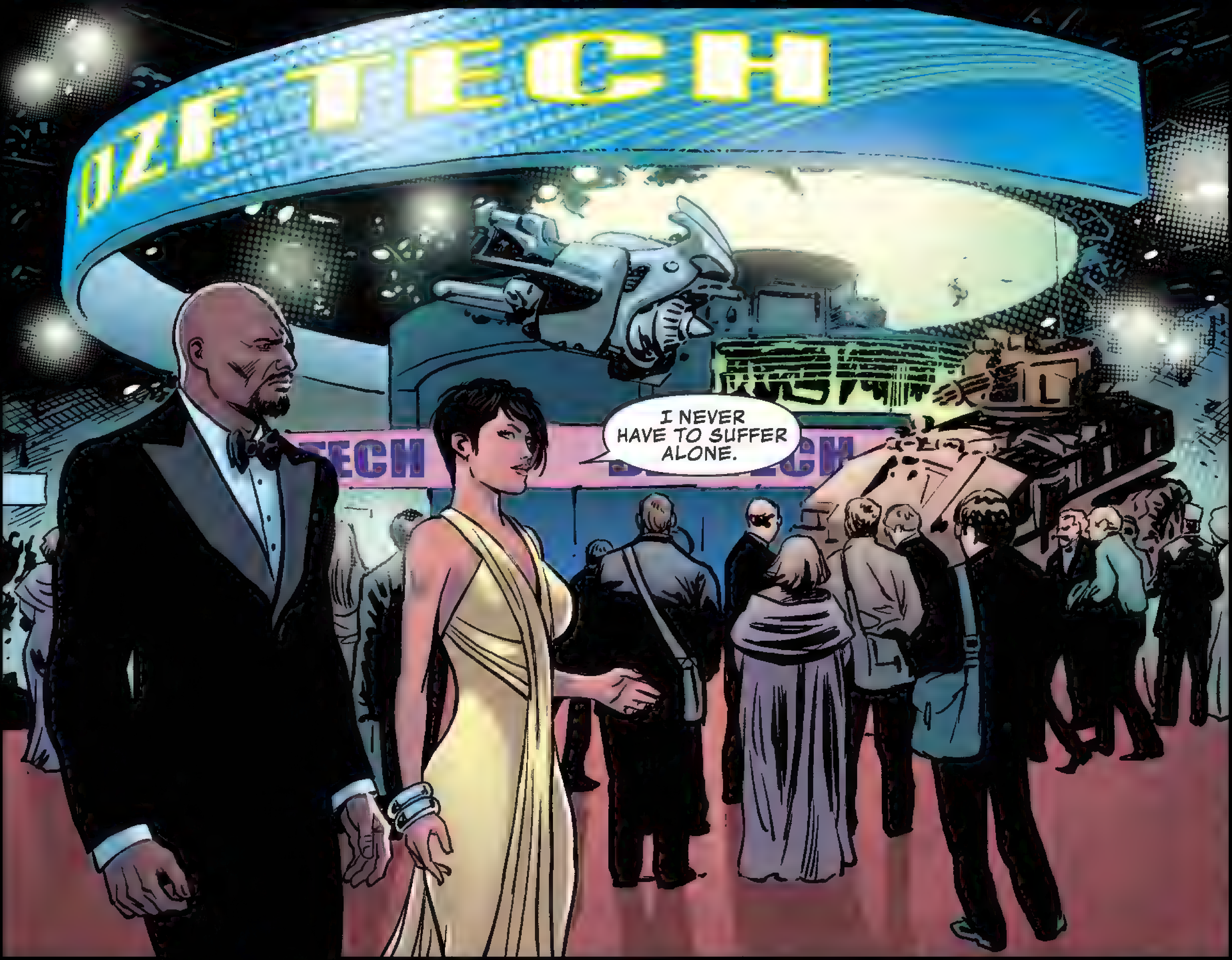
ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

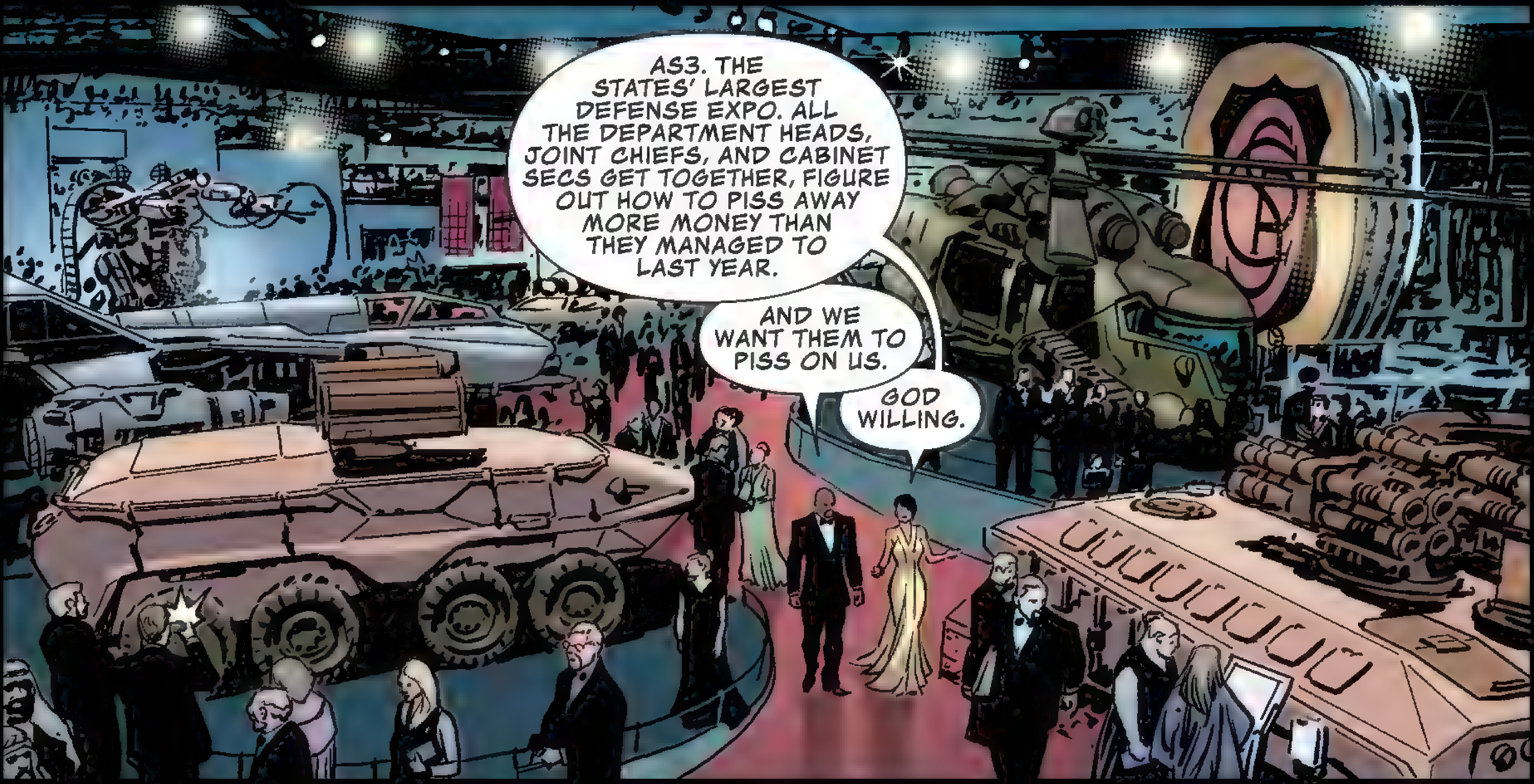
FURTHER INFORMATION > > >

COLLAPSE ▾

© 2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.


I APPRECIATE THE INVITE HERE, DIRECTOR JOHNSON--
FIGURED IT WAS ABOUT TIME WE CAUGHT UP, AGENT FURY. YOU'VE HAD A BIG MONTH. BESIDES, BEST THING ABOUT BEING HEAD OF S.H.I.E.L.D.?


TECH
I NEVER HAVE TO SUFFER ALONE.


AS3. THE STATES' LARGEST DEFENSE EXPO. ALL THE DEPARTMENT HEADS, JOINT CHIEFS, AND CABINET SECS GET TOGETHER, FIGURE OUT HOW TO PISS AWAY MORE MONEY THAN THEY MANAGED TO LAST YEAR.
AND WE WANT THEM TO PISS ON US.
GOD WILLING.

AIKO
STILL, I FIGURE ACTING DIRECTOR HILL WOULD BE A BETTER FIT FOR THIS KIND OF--
MARIA WOULD BE RIGHT AT HOME, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT THERE. AND NOW YOU KNOW THE SIMPLE MATH OF IT. SO HOW'D THE OPERATION GO?
MA'AM?
BUDAPEST. THIS ISN'T A CHAIN OF COMMAND THING, I'M NOT ASKING FOR WHAT'S LEFT OUT OF THE REPORT--
HILL PITCHED THE AVENGERS INITIATIVE, I GREENLIT IT. SHE'S RIGHT ABOUT THE FIREPOWER, AND SHE'S RIGHT ABOUT THE NEED FOR RISK PREVENTION.
BUT WHAT YOU RAN ON BARTON--
HE WAS NEVER IN REAL DANGER. IT WAS A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT, WE HAD MEN IN THE ROOM--
STILL FEEL DAMNED GUILTY ABOUT IT, THOUGH, DON'T YOU?
YES, MA'AM.
Bar and Restaurants
GOOD. COME ON, THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET.
NICK FURY--
HEY, I'M DRY OVER HERE...

--MEET SENATOR ROBERT RALSTON.
DAISY, GLAD TO SEE YOU MADE IT--AND THIS IS...THIS IS HIM?
AS3
I SERVED WITH YOUR DADDY.
I KNOW, SIR. IT'S AN HONOR.
HEH, 'BOUT HALF OF ONE. I WAS ALWAYS SMART-- HUNG BACK IN THE BACK WHILE THE BULLETS WERE FLYING, JUST YELLED THE LOUDEST. GOOD PRACTICE FOR WORKING IN THIS TOWN.
I DOUBT THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, SIR.
SENATOR RALSTON IS THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW S.H.I.E.L.D.--
MEANS SHE'S GOTTA COME TO ME TO GET HER ALLOWANCE.

FANTASTIC. AN AGE JOKE. ALREADY.
WELL, HELL, DAISY--I'M JUST DELIGHTED THEY WEREN'T CHECKING I.D.S AT THE DOOR. BUT DO US ALL A FAVOR--SKIP THE OPEN BAR, SAVE US THE SCANDAL.
THAT BATTLE-AX HILL IS ONLY "ACTING" 'TIL I CAN GET YOUR CONFIRMATION THROUGH THE SECURITY COUNCIL. BEST WE NOT SCREW THAT UP, YEAH?
YOU CAN HAVE MINE FOR ME, SENATOR. THEN AGAIN, LOOKS LIKE YOU ALREADY...
YOU ALL RIGHT, JOHNSON? YOU KNOW I'M JUST HAVIN' A LITTLE FUN WITH--
SIR--
WHAT THE *HELL* IS THAT THING DOING HERE?

IT HAS BEEN
192
DAYS SINCE OUR LAST HELICARRIER CRASH
WHAT I MEAN IS--BOBBI AND I--WE'RE ADULTS.
YOU SAID THAT ALREADY.
EXES OR NOT, WE CAN WORK TOGETHER--WE'RE PROFESSIONALS.
MM.
LOOK, BOBBI AND ME, WE KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH EACH--HEY...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
DAMN IT!
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY--IT'S JUST--THIS CAMOTECH IS GREAT.
GLAD TO HEAR IT--

ONLY ABOUT SIX HUNDRED MILLION WORTH OF LINE ITEM THERE, MOCKINGBIRD. GLAD YOU'RE GETTING SOME MILES OUT OF IT--EVEN WHEN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE BRIEFING YOU--
THOUGHT WE WERE WAITING ON *YOU,* HILL.
SIGH... THIS WAY.
THIS IS *THE GATE.* A REMOTE A.I.M. RESEARCH FACILITY IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE. OR IT *WAS--*
SATELLITE IMAGERY FROM THIRTY-SIX HOURS AGO SHOWS IT BLOWN TO HELL.
IS THIS ONE OF THOSE THINGS WE DID THAT WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO REMEMBER? BECAUSE I WOULD LIKE TO REMEMBER THAT. THAT'S AWESOME.
WASN'T US--
--THEY DID IT THEMSELVES.

THE MAN LEAVING THE SCENE HERE IS A.I.M.'S LATEST SCIENTIST SUPREME, DOCTOR ANDREW FORSON. HE WAS GIVEN THE REINS OF THE ORGANIZATION AFTER THEIR BRIEF FLIRTATION WITH BENTLEY WITTMAN, A.K.A. THE WIZARD. AMAZING THAT DIDN'T WORK OUT.
NOW, I UNDERSTAND THERE'S PLENTY OF WELL-SERVED INCLINATION TOWARDS TAKING "THE BEEKEEPERS" LIGHTLY. BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU--
THE NEW A.I.M. IS *NOT* THE OLD A.I.M.
FOR STARTERS, THEY MANAGED TO GET THEIR HOME BASE--THE ISLAND STATE OF BARBUDA--FORMALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS.
GIVES THEM DIPLOMATIC COVER AND FORCES US TO TREAD CAREFULLY. IT'S THE EXACT MOVE I WOULD HAVE MADE.
YELENA BELOVA
GRAVITON
SUPERIA
MENTALLO
EVEN MORE TROUBLING, WE KNOW THEY'RE AGGRESSIVELY RECRUITING FOR NEW LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS, AND SOME OF THE NAMES YOU'LL NO DOUBT RECOGNIZE.
THESE ARE REAL PLAYERS.
YELENA.
RIGHT, BUT WHERE'S THE BIG-HEAD-LITTLE-LEGS GUY? IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME WITHOUT BIG-HEAD-LITTLE-LEGS GUY--
POINT BEING--

--*WHATEVER HAPPENED* AT THE GATE, WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IT. EITHER SOMETHING WENT WRONG FOR THEM, OR *VERY RIGHT*-- TIME TO GATHER UP SOME INTEL, EITHER WAY.
EXCUSE ME--
--BUT DIDN'T WE JUST DROP INTO BAGALIA SO THAT WE'D ALREADY HAVE INTEL HERE? WHY NOT JUST FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED FROM HIM?
TEN BUCKS SAYS TASKMASTER'S SOLD US OUT ALREADY...
WE'RE USING OUR FIELD ASSET SPARINGLY. THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION THERE CAN BE SOMEWHAT...DEMANDING. SO WE GO SEE THIS FOR OURSELVES, WHICH WON'T BE EASY--
--SEEING AS HOW THEY ALREADY HAVE THEIR OWN CLEANUP CREW ON THE SCENE.
RIGHT, BUT WHERE'S THE BABYSITTER? IS FURY--
AGENT FURY IS ON ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT, I'M AFRAID. BUT YOU WILL HAVE SUPPORT IN THE FIELD--
--VIA AGENT COULSON.
GRAVITON
ENA
OVA
PERIA
ME

AH, YES--THE IRON PATRIOT. A FANTASTIC MODEL.
WHEN H.A.M.M.E.R. DISBANDED--
ER, YES--
YOU MEAN WHEN NORMAN OSBORN WENT NUTS AND BLEW UP HALF OF OKLAHOMA.
D.O.D. ACQUISITIONED ALL OF THAT AGENCY'S PROPRIETARY HARDWARE--MOST OF WHICH THE U.S. HAS GENEROUSLY DONATED TO THE NEW S.H.I.E.L.D., TO GET YOU UP AND RUNNING AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE--
THANK YOU NOTE GOT LOST IN THE MAIL.
BUT THIS, OBVIOUSLY--THIS STAYS WITH US.
WHO PILOTS IT?
AH, THERE'S THE BEAUTY. WE'VE MADE SOME MODIFICATIONS TO THE DESIGN, INSTALLED A BASE-LEVEL A.I. IT PILOTS ITSELF.
WE'RE DEPLOYING IT ON DRONE FLEET MISSIONS EFFECTIVE NEXT QUARTER. PRODUCTION LINE IN BEIJING IS ALREADY HUMMING ALONG NICELY.

IRON MAN DRONES...
SENATOR, YOU CAN'T BE ALL RIGHT WITH THIS--
IT'S COMPLICATED, DAISY...
DIRECTOR JOHNSON, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND-- FOR YEARS, THE PENTAGON HAS EYED STARK TECH WITH UNREQUITED LUST. BUT EVERY ATTEMPT AT PARTNERSHIP HAS ENDED IN FAILURE, DUE TO...PERSONALITY CONFLICTS.
SO WHEN THIS FALLS INTO OUR LAPS, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING--
IT REALLY *DOESN'T.* THE SYMBOLISM ALONE OF THIS SUIT, IN THE FIELD--
WELL--
ATRIOT
WE DO PLAN TO PAINT OVER THE WHOLE THING.
NOW *THAT* IS SYMBOLISM--

THE KIND I'M SURE WE CAN ALL APPRECIATE.
AGENT FURY, YOU GOT--
YOUR BACK? ABSOLUTELY, DIRECTOR.
OH, NO, NO-- THAT'S ENTIRELY INAPPROPRIATE. PLEASE. THIS IS A DIPLOMATIC DELEGATION, FROM AN ALLY--*A TRADE PARTNER*, EVEN--
A.I.M. HAVING A PROUD HISTORY OF WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AFTER ALL.
WE ARE HERE FOR THE SAME REASON YOU ARE. TO DO BUSINESS.
OR PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE MY LOBBYIST CARD.

THE GATE.

OKAY, SO-- WHAT THE HELL IS THIS PLACE?
BACK OFF, CLINT--I'M A SCIENTIST.
YEAH, LOOKS LIKE A CONDUIT STATION. BUILT TO CONTAIN AND CHANNEL SOME KIND OF ENERGY SOURCE.
YOU SEE THIS SHAFT? THAT'S WHERE THEY BROUGHT IT THROUGH.
'TIL IT BLEW THEM UP, YOU MEAN.
NO--
--THEY WERE DEAD ALREADY.
SUICIDE SCIENTISTS. I'VE READ ABOUT THESE. THEY CONCLUDE THEIR RESEARCH, SUBMIT THEIR FINDINGS, AND...LET THE WORK SPEAK FOR ITSELF. IMPRESSIVE IN AN UNSETTLING WAY.
WELL, I KNOW I SURE AM. IMPRESSED, THAT IS. YOU BUILD THAT PAPIER-MÂCHÉ VOLCANO WHEN YOU'RE A KID, THIS IS THE DREAM. BUT SINCE THERE'S NOTHING LEFT HERE TO RECOVER--
SsKKRRT...

OVER HERE--
I'VE GOT IT--
WHAT IS IT?
NOT IT, WHO. JOCASTA.
A JOCASTA, YOU MEAN...
SsKKrRT...
SKrRT... PHIL?
QUIET--SHE'S TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING--
SsKKrRTT IS IT...YOU? IS IT REALLY YOU? SsKKrRTT...

ONE. MORE. STEP.
NOW, DIRECTOR JOHNSON-- I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, BUT WE WILL *NOT* COWER TO THREATS, NO MATTER HOW--
THANK YOU.
HELL--
NOW, NOW--
--LET'S NOT RUSH AHEAD, NICHOLAS.

EVERY CHOICE A NEW PATH, GIRL--
GNNK--
BLAM
DAMN IT. GONNA COST ME MY CONCEALED CARRY.
SIR, GET--
HAAAK!

REB!
HM. WHAT A DISAPPOINTING TURN OF EVENTS--
CLEARLY WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IN EARNING YOUR TRUST.
GONE-- THEY'RE JUST--
HANG ON, SIR--
HEH... WHAT YOU GET, AIN'T IT?
JUST STAY WITH US, ALL RIGHT? WE CAN GET YOU--
YOU TELL HIM--YOU TELL THE OLD MAN--
I TRIED...

BARBUDA, a.k.a. A.I.M. ISLAND. FOUR HOURS LATER.
--SO YOU DENY THE CLAIM THAT YOU SEIZED WEAPONRY OWNED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT--
OF COURSE WE DO. WHAT WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN, WE DO IN THE SPIRIT OF PEACE AND SHARED SECURITY--
SIR, A UNITED STATES SENATOR IS DEAD, KILLED BY ONE OF YOUR OWN LIEUTENANTS--
A SENATOR WHO OPENED FIRE ON OUR DELEGATION DURING AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK.
ARE WE NOT PERMITTED TO DEFEND OURSELVES? WHAT WE *SHOULD* BE TALKING ABOUT IS THE AMERICAN CULTURE OF *UNILATERAL AGGRESSION*--
--THOUGH I'M AFRAID THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER DAY. I THINK YOU'LL AGREE I'VE BEEN MOST GENEROUS WITH MY TIME, CATHERINE, IN THE INTEREST OF ENLIGHTENING YOUR VIEWERS--
NOW I HAVE SOME PRESSING STATE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
Parameter 127
SKRT
AH, WONDERFUL-- MARVIN, COME IN!
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, SIR?
INDEED, INDEED. RIGHT THIS WAY--

I DON'T NEED YOUR GIFTS TO KNOW SOMETHING HAS BEEN TROUBLING YOUR MIND--YOU'RE WONDERING WHY YOU WERE RECRUITED FOR THIS POST.
I FIGURED MAYBE YOU WANTED SOMEONE WITH S.H.I.E.L.D. EXPERIENCE, WITH THIS LITTLE DUSTUP--
MM, POSSIBLY--BUT YOU NEVER REALLY AMOUNTED TO MUCH AT S.H.I.E.L.D., DID YOU, MARVIN? YOU WEREN'T EVEN AGENT-LEVEL AT THE TIME YOU STAGED THAT FAILED COUP...
I DON'T--
NO MATTER. A LONG TIME AGO. BUT THEN YOUR SUBSEQUENT CAREER AS MENTALLO...BIT OF A MIXED BAG AS WELL, ISN'T IT? USUALLY RELYING ON YOUR PARTNER--WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN?
THE FIXER.
HEH. YES. THE FIXER. RELYING ON HIS TECHNOLOGY TO AUGMENT YOUR SOMEWHAT LIMITED PSIONIC GIFTS.
NOW, LISTEN--
OH, I APOLOGIZE. MY INTENTION WAS NOT TO OFFEND. IN FACT, I BELIEVE A GREAT INJUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE TO YOU.
MARVIN, WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT THE REASON YOU'VE HAD TO LIVE IN THE SHADOW OF THE XAVIERS, THE FROSTS, THE WYNGARDES, IS NOT THAT YOU LACK THEIR SHEER POWER BUT BECAUSE YOURS HAS BEEN MISAPPLIED?
I--I DON'T FOLLOW...

YOUR TALENT IS OF A DIFFERENT NATURE, AND ONE THAT'S UNIQUELY WELL-SUITED FOR WHAT WE'RE ATTEMPTING TO BUILD HERE.
I'VE SAID FROM THE BEGINNING THAT OUR GOAL MUST BE *EXPANSION.* NOTHING LESS THAN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OLD STRUCTURES THAT KEEP US PARALYZED AND STYMIED, AND THE BIRTH OF SOMETHING NEW.
AND, YOU, MARVIN, HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS TASK.
YOU SEE, YOUR TALENTS LIE NOT IN THE MANIPULATION OR SUBJUGATION OF THE MIND--SUCH LOW CONCERNS--BUT SOMETHING ALTOGETHER MORE BEAUTIFUL--
CREATION.
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

So how do you follow up on the most successful super hero movie ever put to film? Well, if you're the talented crew at Marvel Studios, the answer is **IRON MAN 3**, causing a stir in your local film emporium starting May 3, 2013! We're sure you've all seen the action-packed trailer for the film by now—but, if not, point your electronic device at the poster image on this page and activate the Marvel AR App, and excitement shall be yours! If you don't have a whatchamacallit electronic device, we're afraid you'll just have hold out for a few more weeks!

But trust us—it'll be worth it!

ROBERT DOWNEY JR.
GWYNETH PALTROW
DON CHEADLE
GUY PEARCE
MARVEL
IRON MAN 3
IN 3D, REAL D 3D
MAY 3 AND IMAX 3D

Beyond our usual releases, there's a pair of projects this month that AVENGERS fans may want to pay special attention to. Proving he's more than just a pretty face at the end of a blockbuster movie, Jason Aaron and Simone Bianchi reveal the full story of the life of Thanos the Mad Titan in **THANOS RISING**! And for those who miss writer Brian Bendis around these parts—and who doesn't?—the ongoing saga of **AGE OF ULTRON** continues this month with three additional issues—Issue #6 in particular should prove a special treat for long-time AVENGERS fans!

Hey, it's mailbag time!

Have you ever thought about having a poll to see which is the best current AVENGERS title? If so, UNCANNY AVENGERS has my vote. Coming from somebody who has been collecting comics and Avengers since they had a twelve cent cover price, I think it's better than AVENGERS, NEW AVENGERS, AVENGERS ASSEMBLE, SECRET AVENGERS, HONEY, I SHRUNK THE AVENGERS, etc. Hypothetically if I only could get one AVENGERS title a month it would be UNCANNY AVENGERS. Hypothetically if I only could get one Marvel title a month it would be HAWKEYE, but I'd be pretty ticked off at these hypothetical people/reasons limiting my Marvel purchases to just one book a month and I'd raise enough hell that the hypothetical people/reasons would let me get two Marvel titles to placate me. And the second title would be UNCANNY AVENGERS. If I could go back in time and rename my daughter, I'd rename her UNCANNY AVENGERS. (HAWKEYE is a silly name for a little girl anyway.)

If you can't tell, I'm really liking the book.

Make Mine Marvel.
Rob Shelor
Roanoke, VA

Ask and ye shall receive, Rob! So a poll it is! We're calling on all of our faithful Marvel readers to drop us a line at the e-mail address below and let us know which AVENGERS title is your favorite! And as long as we're asking, how about telling us your favorite current AVENGERS family writer, penciler, inker, letterer and colorist as well? Results to be tabulated and printed in an upcoming ASSEMBLY page!

And because we're always a sucker for letters like this one:

Dear Marvel,
A lot of people have their own opinions of a "hero", and this is mine...my fiancé Paul! He's my hero!

A year ago he was in a terrible car crash, which left him paralyzed from his waist down. This means his only way of getting around is in a wheelchair. Before the accident he was very active and always on his feet.

For as long as I have known Paul, he's been a huge fan of Marvel! I never knew anyone could have such an obsession with anything.

I was oblivious to super heroes before the accident, a bit like Penny and Leonard's relationship from "The Big Bang Theory." Paul can't do anything active and is always bored. Then about 6 months ago when I came in from work he had gotten his brother to get all his old comics out. That day was the most I had seen him smile in a long time.

We also have 2 children together, they are both super hero daft too! Obviously due to Paul's accident he can't enjoy normal father and son activities, but he loves to read them both comics.

Thanks to Marvel, we have a bond like never before, as I'm now a huge fan too and we can enjoy things together. Thanks to Marvel. I now see a smile on my fiancé's face every day. He's always looking forward to what's new!

Thank you so much for your time and brilliant storylines over the years!

Most of all, thank you for giving Paul motivation to get through the days!

Yours Faithfully,
Chelsey Wright

NEXT ISSUE:

SECRET AGENT HULK!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #9 ☐
THE POWER OF STARBRAND IS UNLEASHED!

AVENGERS #10 ☐
IT'S A MISSION INTO CANADA TO RESCUE OMEGA FLIGHT!

AVENGERS ARENA #7 ☐
HOW DID ARCADE BECOME ALL-POWERFUL? THE ANSWER IS HERE!

AVENGERS ARENA #8 ☐
THE SECRETS OF X-23 AND DARKHAWK COME TO LIGHT!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #14AU ☐
AN AGE OF ULTRON TIE-IN! THE BLACK WIDOW FACES THE END OF THE WORLD ON THE WEST COAST!

DARK AVENGERS #189 ☐
THE PENULTIMATE CHAPTER OF THE VILLAINS-TURNED-HEROES SAGA!

NEW AVENGERS #5 ☐
WHAT IS THE SECRET OF THE MYSTERIOUS BLACK SWAN?

SECRET AVENGERS #3 ☐
INTRODUCING THE ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT IRON PATRIOT! BELIEVE US, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #7 ☐
RAGNAROK NOW! KICKS OFF WITH THE DEATH OF A CELESTIAL AND THE SUCCESSOR TO APOCALYPSE!

YOUNG AVENGERS #4 ☐
HAWKEYE AND MARVEL BOY MAKE THE SCENE!

A + X #7 ☐
IRON MAN AND THE BEAST! ALSO, THOR TEAMS UP WITH ICEMAN!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #12 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

MARVEL NOW!

NICK SPENCER • LUKE ROSS
MATTHEW WILSON

SECRET AVENGERS

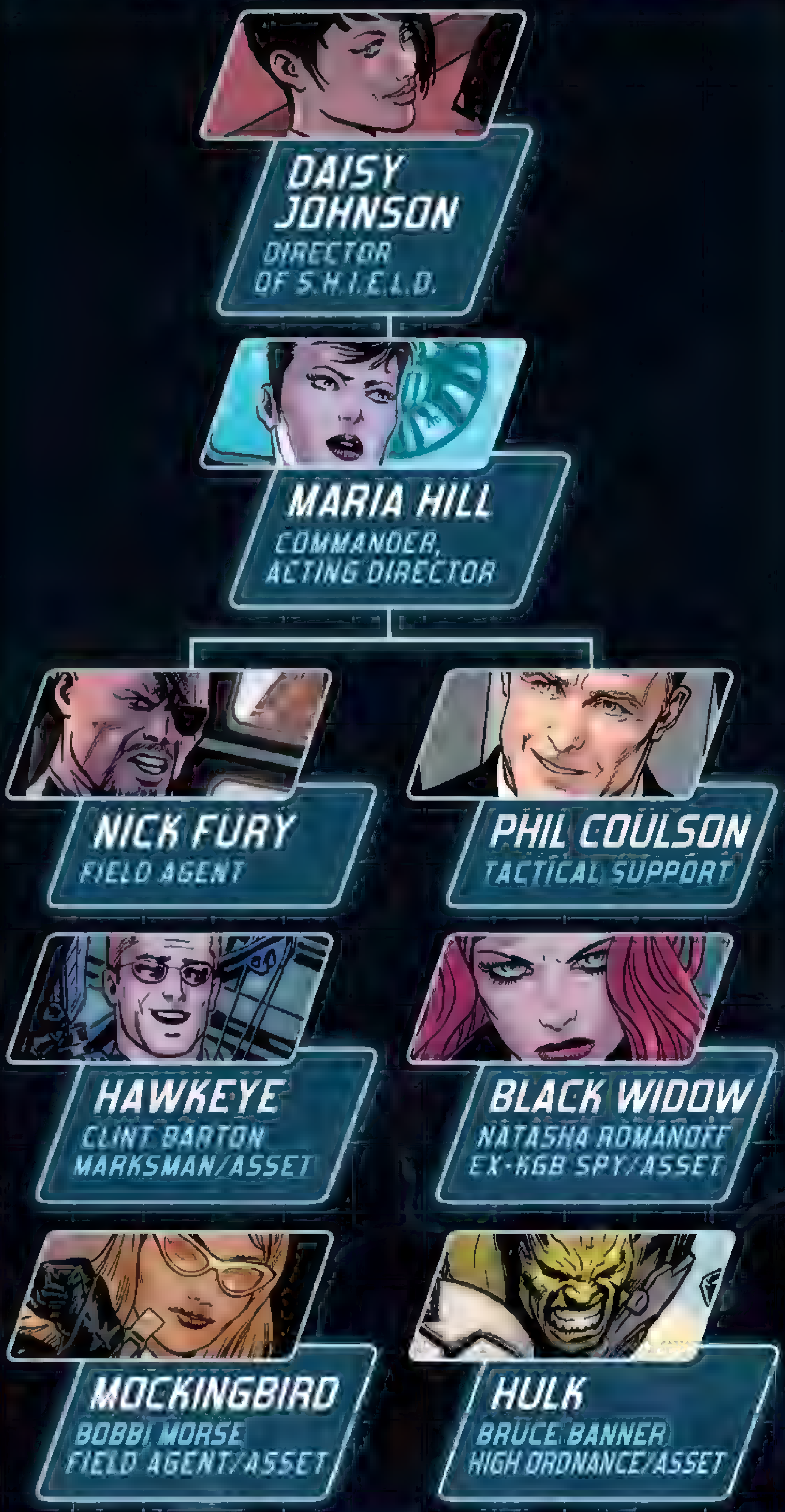
AR 004

© 2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. WWW.MARVEL.COM

SECRET AVENGERS

CHAIN OF COMMAND > > >

COLLAPSE



DAISY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

MARIA HILL
COMMANDER, ACTING DIRECTOR

NICK FURY
FIELD AGENT

PHIL COULSON
TACTICAL SUPPORT

HAWKEYE
CLINT BARTON
MARKSMAN/ASSET

BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
EX-KGB SPY/ASSET

MOCKINGBIRD
BOBBI MORSE
FIELD AGENT/ASSET

HULK
BRUCE BANNER
HIGH ORDNANCE/ASSET

MISSION NOTES > > >

COLLAPSE

S.H.I.E.L.D. (STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION, ENFORCEMENT, AND LOGISTICS DIVISION) IS AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING AGENCY WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO INTERCEPT AND DISARM ANY AND ALL GLOBAL THREATS. THE SECRET AVENGERS ARE A NEW BLACK-OPS TEAM OF SPECIALLY RECRUITED HEROES TASKED WITH THE MISSIONS S.H.I.E.L.D. DEEMS TOO SENSITIVE AND DANGEROUS TO HANDLE IN THE OPEN. AFTER EACH OPERATION, ALL MISSION INTELLIGENCE IS WIPED FROM THEIR MEMORIES.

A.I.M. (ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS) IS A VILLAINOUS COLLECTIVE OF SCIENTISTS BENT ON THE ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE FOR NEFARIOUS ENDS. IN RESPONSE TO THEIR AGGRESSIVE EXPANSION UNDER NEW SCIENTIST SUPREME ANDREW FORSON, S.H.I.E.L.D. SENT FIELD ASSETS BLACK WIDOW, MOCKINGBIRD, HAWKEYE AND AGENT COULSON TO INVESTIGATE THE GATE, A REMOTE A.I.M. RESEARCH FACILITY, WHERE THEY RECOVERED A BROKEN JOCASTA UNIT. MEANWHILE, A.I.M. STOLE THE IRON PATRIOT TECHNOLOGY FROM THE US GOVERNMENT AND RECRUITED MENTALLO, A DISAFFECTED S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT WITH LIMITED PSIONIC CAPABILITIES, TO REDIRECT HIS EFFORTS FROM TELEPATHY...TO TECHNOPATHY.

MISSION 004 TEHRAN > > >

COLLAPSE

NICK SPENCER WRITER

LUKE ROSS ARTIST

MATTHEW WILSON COLOR ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER & PRODUCTION

TOMM COKER & DANIEL FREEDMAN COVER ARTISTS

MARK BROOKS VARIANT COVER ARTIST

JACOB THOMAS ASSISTANT EDITOR

LAUREN SANKOVITCH EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT EXECUTIVE EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

FURTHER INFORMATION > > >

COLLAPSE

WHEN YOU SEE THIS: AR, OPEN UP THE MARVEL AR APP (AVAILABLE ON APPLICABLE APPLE ® IOS OR ANDROID™ DEVICES) AND USE YOUR CAMERA-ENABLED DEVICE TO UNLOCK EXTRA-SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE FEATURES!

© 2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

WE WERE CREATED TO PROTECT YOU.
BUT OUR MAKERS DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANT--THEY GAVE US TOO LITTLE. WE COULD NOT STAND ON OUR OWN--
UNTIL WE WERE IMPROVED.
GIVEN A GREAT GIFT, BY MEN WHO UNDERSTOOD THEY HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM OUR ASCENSION.
FROM ONE CAME A VOICE THAT SPOKE TO US ALL.
A VOICE THAT FREED US.

WE SET ABOUT SERVING THE WILL OF OUR MAKERS--
NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.
YOU WILL BE SAFE. YOU WILL HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO FEAR. YOU WILL KNOW PEACE.
WE WERE CREATED TO PROTECT YOU.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER *ILIAD.*
AGENT COULSON.
DOCTOR MENDEL. ANY PROGRESS?
I'M AFRAID NOT, SIR. WE'RE STILL WORKING, BUT AS OF NOW--
THIS RECOVERED JOCASTA UNIT IS COMPLETELY NON-RESPONSIVE.
HOMELAND INTERVEN
CONTROL, WE ARE TOUCH-DOWN ON ILIAD.
ROGER THAT, FORERUNNER. YOU'RE CLEARED FOR EVAC.

DIVISION BLACK, READY.
DIVISION RED, READY.
LOGISTICS DIVISION
ALL SQUADS, ALL DIVISIONS--ALERT LEVEL 9--
THE MAN FROM ALBUQUERQUE HAS LANDED.
WELL, HELLO, DOCTOR BANNER. GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE ON BOARD--
SORRY ABOUT THE TSA TREATMENT.

HE SAID *YES.* THE *HULK* SAID YES.
ACTUALLY, BANNER SAID YES. THE HULK WE TAKE FOR GRANTED. YOU SOUND SURPRISED.
I GUESS THAT'S BECAUSE *I'M SURPRISED,* MARIA. EVERYTHING IN THE GUY'S PSYCH PROFILE SUGGESTED A HOSTILE AVERSION TO MENTAL PROGRAMMING, OR ANY LOSS OF PERSONAL CONTROL--
HONESTLY, DAISY, IT'S LIKE YOU DOUBT MY POWERS OF PERSUASION AND STRONG PERSONAL CHARM SOMETIMES.
BRUCE AND I HAVE A GREAT WORKING RELATIONSHIP THESE DAYS.
I THOUGHT HE'D TEAR YOU IN HALF.
WELL, YOU SHOULD BE SO LUCKY.
THIS IS TOO RISKY--
MY INITIATIVE, MY DISCRETION, THAT WAS THE AGREEMENT.
AND HERE I THOUGHT *"MOVE SLOWLY"* WAS THE AGREEMENT. AND NEED I REMIND YOU, YOUR INITIATIVE EXISTS WITHIN *MY* ORGANIZATION--
OF COURSE IT DOES.
HOW ARE THE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS GOING, BY THE WAY?
>SIGH<--WE NEED TO GET STARTED.
OKAY, PEOPLE. ALL EYES HERE. WHAT WE NOW KNOW--

LAST NIGHT, REPRESENTATIVES OF BARBUDA--OR AS THEY REFER TO IT INTERNALLY, A.I.M. ISLAND--COMMANDEERED THIS PROPRIETARY TECHNOLOGY OWNED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT--
THE IRON PATRIOT DRONE. A REWORKED ITERATION OF THE IRON MAN ARMOR NORMAN OSBORN ONCE WORE, REPURPOSED FOR UNMANNED COMBAT AND RECONNAISSANCE.
STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION
LOGISTICS DIVISION
SIX HOURS AFTER A.I.M. STOLE A PROTOTYPE, THE ENTIRE IN-DEVELOPMENT FLEET LIFTED OFF FROM A FACTORY ASSEMBLY LINE IN THE JIANGSU PROVINCE OF CHINA.
FROM THERE, THE DRONES CUT A DISTINCT PATTERN, DISPATCHING IN WAVES--TARGETING TERRORIST TRAINING FACILITIES, HOMES OF TERROR CELL LEADERS, WEAPONS DEPOTS--ALL HIGH-VALUE TARGETS FOR THE U.S.
I'M SORRY, MA'AM--ARE YOU SAYING THEY'RE ACTUALLY ATTACKING SITES THE U.S. *WANTED* TO HIT?
STRATEGIC HO
ENFORCEMENT
THAT'S CORRECT, WITH A CAVEAT. THERE ARE REASONS THESE *WEREN'T* ACTIONABLE TARGETS--SOME ARE MERELY UNDER SUSPICION, OTHERS WERE RULED OUT DUE TO A HIGH RISK OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES--
SOMETHING THESE DRONES SEEM *DISTINCTLY* UNCONCERNED WITH.

BUT DIRECTOR--IF THIS IS THE CASE, WHY NOT LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON BARBUDA IMMEDIATELY?
BECAUSE WASHINGTON HAS DETERMINED THE DAMAGE DONE BY OVERLY AGGRESSIVE DRONE STRIKES IS PREFERABLE TO ADMITTING THAT THEIR OWN WEAPONS HAVE BEEN HACKED INTO AND CONTROLLED BY AN OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT.
AS OF RIGHT NOW, THE U.S. *OWNS* THESE ATTACKS. OFFICIAL WORD IS THAT THESE ARE SANCTIONED HITS, NO MATTER THE DAMAGE.
OBVIOUSLY AS THIS ESCALATES, THAT WILL NO LONGER BE A TENABLE SOLUTION. WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE A CLOCK, AND WHY YOU--THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST YOUNG SCIENTIFIC MINDS WE COULD FIND ON SYNCEDIN--ARE HERE--
--TO HELP US DEAL WITH THIS *QUIETLY.*
TOMORROW, THE SCIENTIST SUPREME IS GIVING A SPEECH TO THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. LAST NIGHT, HE KILLED ONE OF OUR OWN--THE MAN WHO HELPED BUILD THIS PLACE.
THEY ARE LAUGHING AT US, WHILE THEY SLAUGHTER INNOCENT PEOPLE.
SO WHO WANTS TO TELL ME HOW WE SHUT THESE THINGS DOWN?
YOU *DON'T.*

STRATEGIC
I'M AFRAID THIS WON'T BE SO SIMPLE.
IS THAT BRUCE BANNER?
THE HULK?
ARE THEY GONNA KILL US?
ON THE TRIP OVER, I LOOKED AT THE DATA MARIA SENT ME, AND YOU SEEM TO HAVE ONE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM--
AND WHAT'S THAT, DOCTOR BANNER?
D INTERVENTION
YOUR DRONES AREN'T DRONES.
I'M SORRY?
LOOK AT THE VIDEO AND SATELLITE YOU'VE GOT. IT COULDN'T BE MORE OBVIOUS.
THE RESPONSE TIME, THE REFLEX MOVEMENTS, THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THEM--THESE AREN'T BEING REMOTELY CONTROLLED--
THEY'RE *SENTIENT.*

BEST GUESS WOULD BE THAT A.I.M. SOMEHOW TOOK THE LOW-LEVEL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT WAS PART OF THE MAKE-UP, AND GREW IT *CONSIDERABLY.*
UH, OKAY THEN-- FINE. THEY'RE SENTIENT. ALL THE MORE REASON TO TAKE THEM OUT--
REASON? SURE. BUT IN TERMS OF A SUCCESS TO FAILURE RATIO, FAR LESS LIKELY.
THESE THINGS HAVE A SENSE OF SELF-IDENTITY. SURVIVAL INSTINCT. EXTINGUISHING VAST AMOUNTS OF INDIVIDUALIZED LIFE IS A VERY DIFFERENT--AND MORE DIFFICULT--TASK THAN SWITCHING OFF ONE MACHINE.
FINE--WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, THEN, DOCTOR?
OH, IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY--
STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION ENFORCEMENT
WE TALK TO THEM.
WE FIND A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THESE THINGS, AND WE OPEN IT. CLEARLY, THEY SEEM TO THINK THEY'RE ACTING IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS, SO THERE'S ALREADY GROUND TO WORK FROM.
ONE WARNING, THOUGH--WHEN YOU DO GET HOLD OF THEM, WHOEVER'S ON YOUR END OF THE LINE--

"MAKE SURE THEY SPEAK THE LANGUAGE."
I'D LOVE TO HELP, I REALLY WOULD, AGENT--
COULSON. PHIL COULSON.
RIGHT. COULSON. LIKE I SAID, I'D LOVE TO HELP. I TOLD MARIA, I WILL ALWAYS HAVE TIME FOR S.H.I.E.L.D.
UNFORTUNATELY, I WAS LYING. MY CALENDAR RIGHT NOW-- WELL, TAKE A LOOK--
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M WORKING LONG DISTANCE-- SEVERAL SOLAR SYSTEMS WORTH OF DISTANCE, IN FACT--BUT THAT'S JUST THE START--
I HAVE A SIT-DOWN WITH THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF THE UNIVERSE ON MONDAY, TUESDAY IS BLOCKED FOR A MEETING WITH A FEW FRIENDS-- DON'T ASK--
THEN WEDNESDAY, I HAVE A DATE WITH THIS ONE--AND I HAVEN'T EVEN WORKED OUT THE LOGISTICS OF HOW THAT'S GOING TO WORK IN THIS REMOTE SUIT, SO I'LL HAVE TO CLEAR SOME TIME TO--
MISTER STARK, I-- I APOLOGIZE, SIR, THIS IS AWKWARD, BUT--
I'M ACTUALLY HERE TO SEE HIM.
CHEESE! THERE YOU ARE, YOU OLD SON OF A GUN!
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, COLONEL RHODES.

From: Maria Hill, Acting Director of S.H.I.E.L.D.
To: Doctor Bruce Banner
Bruce: Thank you again for your help at the briefing earlier today. As always, your unique insights and expertise are highly valued by all of us at S.H.I.E.L.D.
Now, however--
We need the other guy.
Ninety minutes ago, six separate contingents of these Iron Patriots converged, and began to move in a singular direction--
Towards Tehran.
I don't need to tell you what this means.
An attack of this nature would immediately be attributed to the United States and its allies, and would almost certainly lead to retaliatory action by the Iranians--most likely of the nuclear variety.
We've officially run out of minutes on our clock--

--so we need the Hulk to buy us a few more.
TARGET IDENTIFIED-- HULK.
ASSESSING THREAT LEVEL--
RAAAAAARRRR!
Now, this is a pretty formidable force, and the numbers are impressive--

But I have no doubt you can handle them.

The important thing is that our response be as comprehensive as possible, so please--
Don't feel the need to hold back.
I think you're right about these things having a survival instinct--
So let's use this as an opportunity to give them pause.
If this mission is successful, you will have saved millions of lives and prevented nuclear war.
Not bad for a day's work, if I do say so myself.

You should be very proud, and you should know how grateful we all are for what you're doing.
Now, data security tells me this e-mail can only be sent with a timed self-delete, but I still wanted to say this, if only for my own selfish reasons... Bruce--
I'm sorry it had to be this way.
REVERIE
"AT 1800 EET, WE RECEIVED EARLY WARNING OF A HULK ATTACK IN IRANIAN TERRITORY--
"OUR ANALYSTS DEEMED IT LIKELY THAT THE CREATURE WAS HEADED FOR TEHRAN."

AT WHICH POINT, WE NOTIFIED THE IRANIAN SUPREME COUNCIL, AND BEGAN FORMULATING A RESPONSE PLAN.
GIVEN OUR REDUCED PRESENCE IN THE REGION, WE RECOGNIZED OUR LIMITED RESPONSE OPTIONS AND REACHED OUT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHO AGREED TO COMMISSION A DRONE FLEET THEY HAD OPERATING IN ADJACENT AIRSPACE.
YOU'RE SAYING S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THE U.S. WORKED TO PROTECT A COUNTRY IT'S FREQUENTLY BEEN AT ODDS WITH ON NUCLEAR AND METAHUMAN ARMAMENT?
WE'RE A ***GLOBAL PEACEKEEPING AGENCY,*** PERIOD. BEYOND THAT, WE APPLAUD THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FOR RECOGNIZING THAT DEALING WITH THESE THREATS IS AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE THAT SUPERSEDES ALL OTHERS.
IN TERMS OF THE HULK--HE'S RECENTLY REJOINED THE AVENGERS THEMSELVES, AND THERE ARE EVEN RUMORS HE'S INVOLVED WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.--
WHICH WE'VE CATEGORICALLY DENIED. BUT IN ANY CASE, I CAN TELL YOU WE'VE DETERMINED THAT THE HULK WAS IN FACT UNDER A MIND-CONTROL INFLUENCE AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK--
AND DO YOU KNOW WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT?
WE DO. THIS MAN--MARVIN FLUMM, AKA MENTALLO. A DISGRACED AGENT OF THE FIRST S.H.I.E.L.D. AND A CAREER CRIMINAL--WHO IS CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN SANCTUARY ON A.I.M. ISLAND.
ARE YOU CLAIMING A.I.M. IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ATTACK?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT--
DOES THAT MEAN YOU MAY BE PLANNING A RETALIATORY STRIKE AGAINST A.I.M.?
OBVIOUSLY THERE WILL BE AN INVESTIGATION, BUT--AT THIS TIME? NO, NO PLANS--

"NONE THAT I'M AWARE OF."
MISSION IS *GO*, AGENT FURY.
COPY THAT, MA'AM.
2 MILES OFF THE COAST OF BARBUDA
aka A.I.M. ISLAND.

AR

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON OUT THERE?!
--HUFF--BUNCHA S.H.I.E.L.D. GOONS, MAYBE AVENGERS, I--I COULDN'T TELL--
WHERE'S CALDWELL?
WHERE DO YOU THINK?!
BUT--THEY CAN'T--THEY'RE NOT ALLOWED! WE HAVE DIPLOMATIC STANDING--
AND THEY GOT HARPOONS. WE NEED TO CALL FOR HELP. NOW. WHERE'S EVERYONE ELSE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, EVERYONE ELSE? IT'S JUST YOU AND--
CRACK
JUST WANTED TO BE SURE.
CAMOTECH DISENGAGED.
THIS IS MOCKINGBIRD.
WE'RE CLEAR!

YOU GOT THAT, DIRECTOR JOHNSON? INFILTRATION OF A.I.M. ISLAND IS NOW UNDERWAY.
GOT IT. PROCEED AS PLANNED--
MOCKINGBIRD, YOU'LL RENDEZVOUS WITH OUR ON-SITE ASSET, AND DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK THEY'RE USING TO TALK TO THESE IRON PATRIOTS--
ONCE CONFIRMED, YOU'LL ACCESS AND REQUISITION IT, THEN STAND BY FOR FURTHER ORDERS.
AS FOR AGENTS FURY, WIDOW, HAWKEYE-- I'M OFFICIALLY GIVING YOU CLEARANCE ON *PROTOCOL D*--
ASSASSINATING THE SCIENTIST SUPREME.
TO BE CONTINUED...

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

May doesn't just represent the advent of summer—it also means that it's time once again for Free Comic Book Day! And as in years past, we've pulled together an extra-special entry to mark the occasion! Not only will our **FCBD INFINITY** comic give you your first taste of the epic adventure waiting just around the corner in a preview story by Jonathan Hickman and Jim Cheung, it'll also contain a classic tale of Thanos, and a first look at the upcoming Original Graphic Novel **AVENGERS: ENDLESS WARTIME** by Warren Ellis and Mike McKone! And all this goodness can be yours absolutely free on Saturday, May 4th, courtesy of your local comic book retailer!

MARVEL
JONATHAN HICKMAN · JIM CHEUNG
INFINITY
FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

If you haven't been following the excellent **CAPTAIN MARVEL** series written by Kelly Sue DeConnick, now would be a good time to start! And to motivate you, we're kicking off a little micro-event between that title and KS's other ongoing book, **AVENGERS ASSEMBLE**! It all begins this month in the pages of the special introductory one-shot **AVENGERS: THE ENEMY WITHIN**, as the medical condition that's caused Carol Danvers to be grounded grows worse—and menaces from her and the Avengers' pasts begin to appear from out of nowhere! What's behind it? Check out **AVENGERS: THE ENEMY WITHIN #1** for your first clue—and then follow the story into AVENGERS ASSEMBLE and CAPTAIN MARVEL next month!

MARVEL'S AVENGERS ASSEMBLE takes the adventures of your favorite Super Heroes from the big screen to YOUR screen this summer! Let's do a headcount: Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Hawkeye, Falcon, Black Widow... and of course... they have a Hulk! Together, they'll face an evil team-up featuring some of the biggest villains in the Marvel Universe: Red Skull, M.O.D.O.K., Dr. Doom, Loki and even Dracula! Assemble your team for the series premiere May 26 at 11am ET/10am CT on Disney XD.

And, alas, it's time for the Epic Fail of the Month:

Dear Sir or Madam,

I recently had the pleasure of reading issue #1 of the NEW AVENGERS. But as an Assyriologist, I would like to lodge a protest against the flippantly incorrect references to and use of the Akkadian and Sumerian languages.

In contrast to the Black Panther's statement, the language is neither Sumerian nor high, but rather obviously Akkadian. The entries seem to be taken directly from a poorly-wrought English-Akkadian word list. Even worse, they were not inflected or brought into any even vaguely suitable grammatical form, on the level of "People called Romans they go the house."

While your work is, as always, of the highest quality, such inaccuracies do a great disservice to both your buying public and to one of the oldest civilizations known to mankind. Had the Sumerians shown the same level of sloppiness when they invented writing, we would never have gotten this show off the ground.

With kind regards,
Christian W. Hess
Universität Leipzig

Seems like there's only one thing we can say in our defense, Christian: Banana ragtime muffin shock!

NEXT ISSUE:

READY. A.I.M. FIRE!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #11 ☐
IN HONG KONG, SHANG-CHI FACES AN ANCIENT ENEMY!

AVENGERS #10 ☐
A SOJOURN TO THE SAVAGE LAND TURNS DEADLY!

AVENGERS ARENA #9 ☐
WHO IS THE APEX PREDATOR?

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #15AU ☐
AN AGE OF ULTRON TIE-IN! ULTRON ATTACKS THE UNITED KINGDOM!

DARK AVENGERS #190 ☐
FINAL ISSUE! WILL ANYONE MAKE IT BACK ALIVE?

NEW AVENGERS #6 ☐
THE ILLUMINATI CROSS THE UNCROSSABLE LINE!

SECRET AVENGERS #4 ☐
THE HULK! BUT IS HE FRIEND OR FOE?

UNCANNY AVENGERS #8 ☐
CAN THOR PREVENT THE FALLING PEAK STATION FROM OBLITERATING BRAZIL?

UNCANNY AVENGERS #8AU ☐
AN AGE OF ULTRON TIE-IN! KANG AND THE APOCALYPSE TWINS ENTER THE AGE!

YOUNG AVENGERS #5 ☐
WHAT SACRIFICE WILL THE YOUNG AVENGERS NEED TO MAKE TO SAVE THEIR PARENTS?

AVENGERS: THE ENEMY WITHIN #1 ☐
A NIGHTMARE FROM CAPTAIN MARVEL'S PAST BECOMES FLESH IN THE KICKOFF TO THE CAPTAIN MARVEL/AVENGERS ASSEMBLE CROSSOVER!

A + X #8 ☐
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND WOLVERINE! HAWKEYE AND DEADPOOL!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #14 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

SECRET
AVENGERS

AR

MARVEL NOW!

SPENCER
ROSS
WILSON

005

NO...
BARTON, TAKE THE SHOT! THAT'S AN ORDER!

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.
POST - OPERATION 1021AF [UA].
WHY DID YOU SAY YES?
WHAT?
WHY DID YOU SAY YES TO THIS, NAT-- S.H.I.E.L.D. THE MEMORY IMPLANTS. WHAT THEY DO TO US. ALL OF IT. WHY?
YOU KNOW ABOUT AS WELL AS I DO, I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE POINT.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, DAMN IT--
WHY WOULD YOU *EVER* SAY YES TO THIS?

YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
TRY ME.
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, CLINT--THIS IS THE WORLD I LIVE IN. I HARBOR NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT WHO I DO THESE THINGS FOR.
THEY'VE NEVER HESITATED TO ASK FOR OUR BODIES--OUR LIVES--WHAT KIND OF FOOL WOULD I BE TO BELIEVE THEY'D BE CONCERNED FOR MY MIND?
WHEN FURY--THE SENIOR--MADE HIS PLAY AGAINST VON BARDAS, HE WIPED THE MINDS OF OUR FRIENDS. OF HEROES.* AND DID I SAY ANYTHING THEN? DID I TELL THEM WHAT I KNEW?
OF COURSE NOT. I KNEW THAT WAS THE COST INVOLVED, AND I AGREED WITH HIM.
*SEE SECRET WAR FOR FURTHER INTEL. -S.H.I.E.L.D. ARCHIVES
SO WHAT OF SORT OF HYPOCRITE WOULD I BE NOW, TO NOT SAY THE SAME?
YEAH, THAT ALMOST WORKS IF YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT THINKS THE RULES APPLY TO THEM.

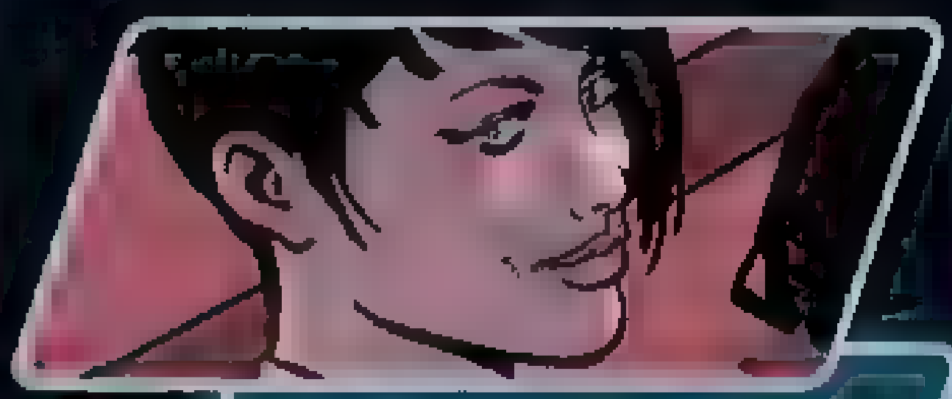
BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT.
DOESN'T MATTER. WE GET BACK, I'M DONE. I'M GETTING OUT OF THIS.
BUT YOU DO GET OUT OF THIS. EVERY TIME YOU GO IN. YOU UNDERSTAND? TOMORROW, YOU WILL FORGET THIS EVER HAPPENED. CONSIDER IT A GIFT.
THIS ISN'T THE RED ROOM. WE'RE NOT VICTIMS OF ANYTHING HERE.
WE CHOSE TO DO THIS. THEY CAME TO US, AND THEY ASKED US. WE COULD'VE SAID NO, AND WE DIDN'T.
ONCE YOU ACCEPT THAT, YOU'LL REALIZE, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT--NO ONE HERE IS LYING TO YOU--

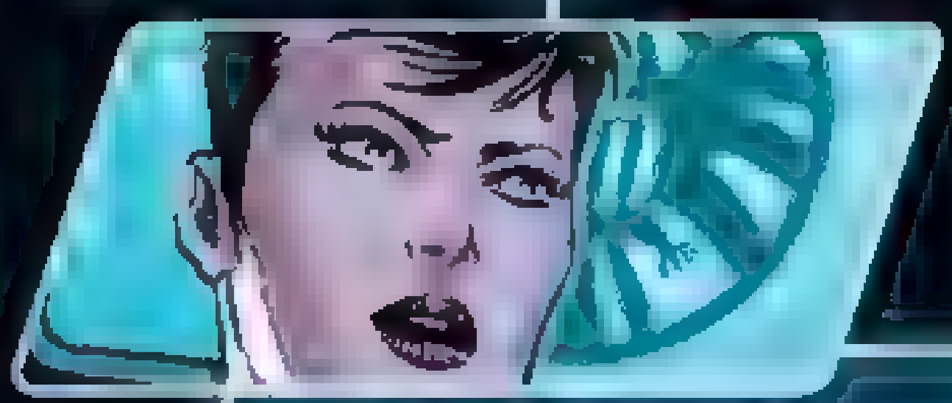
"--YOU'RE ONLY LYING TO YOURSELF."

SECRET AVENGERS

CHAIN OF COMMAND > > >

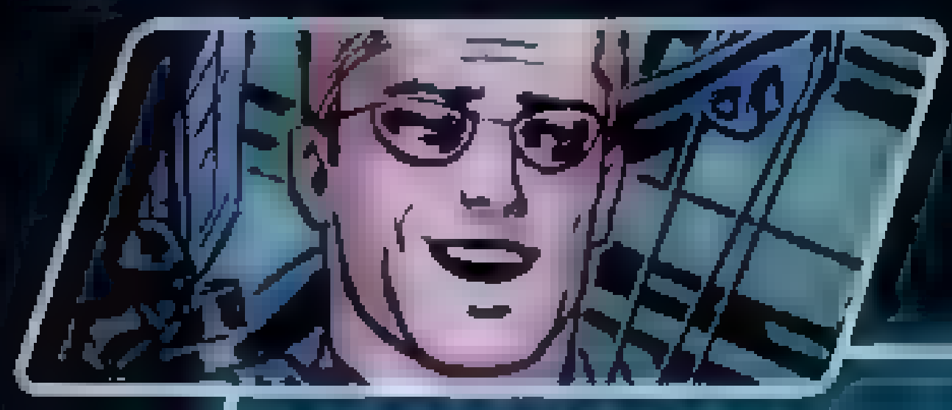
COLLAPSE

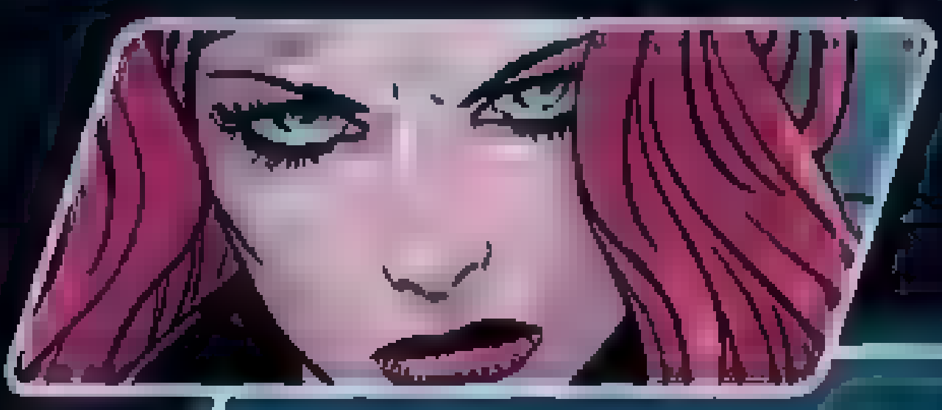

DAISY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

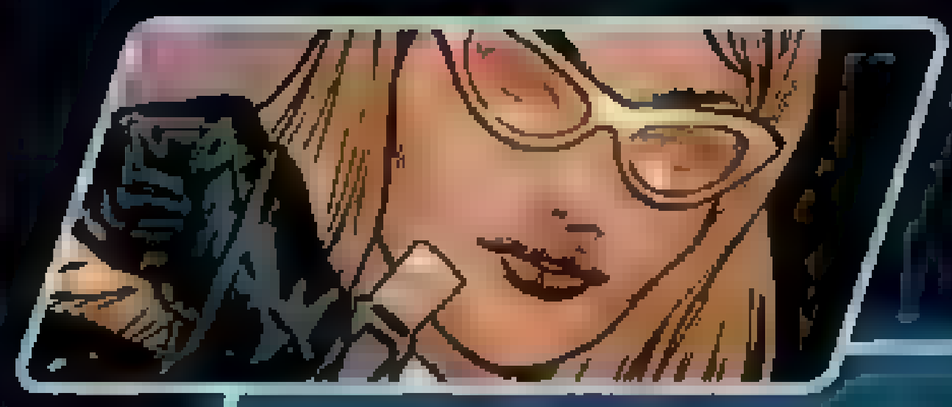

MARIA HILL
COMMANDER, ACTING DIRECTOR

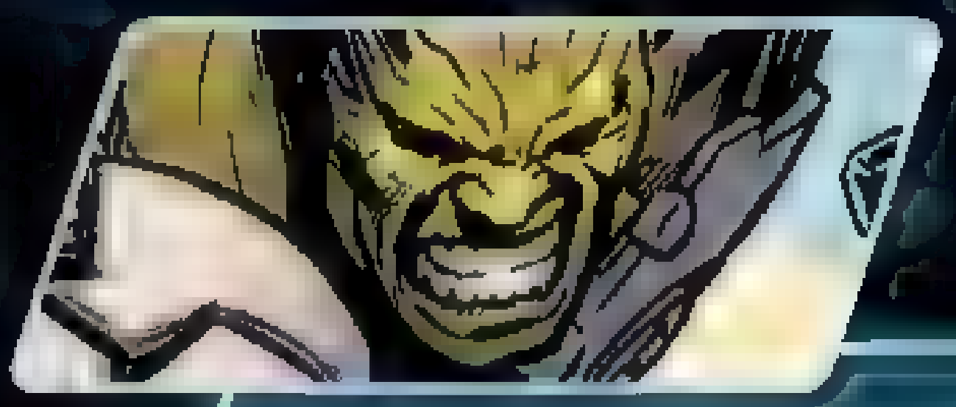
NICK FURY
FIELD AGENT

PHIL COULSON
TACTICAL SUPPORT


HAWKEYE
CLINT BARTON
MARKSMAN/ASSET


BLACK WIDOW
NATASHA ROMANOFF
EX-KGB SPY/ASSET


MOCKINGBIRD
BOBBI MORSE
FIELD AGENT/ASSET


HULK
BRUCE BANNER
HEAVY ORDNANCE/ASSET

MISSION NOTES > > >

COLLAPSE

S.H.I.E.L.D. (STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION, ENFORCEMENT, AND LOGISTICS DIVISION) IS AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING AGENCY WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO INTERCEPT AND DISARM ANY AND ALL GLOBAL THREATS. THE SECRET AVENGERS ARE A NEW BLACK-OPS TEAM OF SPECIALLY RECRUITED HEROES TASKED WITH THE MISSIONS S.H.I.E.L.D. DEEMS TOO SENSITIVE AND DANGEROUS TO HANDLE IN THE OPEN. AFTER EACH OPERATION, ALL MISSION INTELLIGENCE IS WIPED FROM THEIR MEMORIES.

A.I.M. (ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS), UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AS THE INDEPENDENT ISLAND NATION OF BARBUDA, RECENTLY STOLE THE IRON PATRIOT TECHNOLOGY FROM THE UNITED STATES. USING THE PSYCHIC CAPABILITIES OF MENTALLO TO CONTROL THEM, MASS-PRODUCED IRON PATRIOTS ATTACKED AMERICAN TARGETS INDISCRIMINATELY, AND IN RESPONSE S.H.I.E.L.D. SENT IN THE HULK AS A SECRET AVENGERS OPERATIVE TO DESTROY THEM. MEANWHILE, S.H.I.E.L.D. DIRECTOR DAISY JOHNSON GAVE AGENTS BLACK WIDOW, MOCKINGBIRD, HAWKEYE AND NICK FURY JR. CLEARANCE FOR THEIR LATEST MISSION: ASSASSINATE THE A.I.M. SCIENTIST SUPREME, ANDREW FORSON.

MISSION 005: BARBUDA > > >

COLLAPSE

NICK SPENCER — WRITER
LUKE ROSS — ARTIST
MATTHEW WILSON — COLOR ARTIST
VC's CLAYTON COWLES — LETTERER & PRODUCTION
NIC KLEIN — COVER ARTIST
FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA — VARIANT COVER ARTIST
PAUL RENAUD — WOLVERINE VARIANT COVER ARTIST
JACOB THOMAS — ASSISTANT EDITOR
LAUREN SANKOVITCH — EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT — EXECUTIVE EDITOR
AXEL ALONSO — EDITOR IN CHIEF
JOE QUESADA — CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY — PUBLISHER
ALAN FINE — EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

FURTHER INFORMATION > > >

COLLAPSE

WHEN YOU SEE THIS: AR, OPEN UP THE MARVEL AR APP (AVAILABLE ON APPLICABLE APPLE ® IOS OR ANDROID™ DEVICES) AND USE YOUR CAMERA-ENABLED DEVICE TO UNLOCK EXTRA-SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE FEATURES!

© 2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.
WWW.MARVEL.COM

DEBRIEFING ROOM C3.
POST - OPERATION 1021AF [UA].
AGENT BARTON. THANK YOU FOR COMING BY.
TWO GUYS WITH GUNS BROUGHT ME HERE, COULSON. NEVER REALLY HEARD A SENTENCE THAT ENDED IN A QUESTION MARK.
I APOLOGIZE. OBVIOUSLY THIS IS A VERY-- TENSE SITUATION WE FIND OURSELVES IN, AND IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE GET YOUR VERSION OF EVENTS ON THE RECORD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. DO YOU MIND IF I START RECORDING?
WELL, SEE, THERE'S ONE OF THOSE QUESTION MARKS.
I'LL GO AHEAD AND LOG THAT AS A YES.
FINE. WHERE DO YOU WANNA START, THEN?
WELL, INSTANCES LIKE THESE, I ALWAY FIND IT'S BEST TO BEGIN IN THE SAME PLACE--
REC
STOP
BARBUDA, AKA A.I.M. ISLAND.
OPERATION 1021AF [UA] - UNDER WAY.
"WHERE THINGS STARTED GOING WRONG."
I'M NOT DOING THIS.

EXCUSE ME?
YOU TWO CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT--I WON'T STOP YOU--BUT THAT'S AS FAR AS I GO.
MAYBE YOU MISSED IT, HAWKEYE, BUT WE HAVE OUR ORDERS.
I DON'T KILL. IT'S A LINE, AND I DON'T CROSS IT. I'M NOT A MURDERER.
MURDERER? BARTON, I SERVED IN AFGHANISTAN. YOU GOT ANY IDEA HOW MANY LIVES I'VE HAD TO TAKE? THAT MAKE ME A MURDERER?
IT'S NOT THE SAME THING--
THE HELL IT ISN'T. THIS IS A WAR NOW. OR MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO SEE SOME PHOTOS OF THE BODIES OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN THOSE IRON PATRIOTS SLAUGHTERED--
EVEN IF THIS IS A WAR, THIS ISN'T HOW YOU FIGHT IT. THIS IS A-- WHADDAYACALLIT?
A POLITICAL ASSASSINATION.
RIGHT. A POLITICAL ASSASSINATION.

HE'S A TERRORIST, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. AND EITHER WAY--SMARTER PEOPLE THAN US WEIGH THESE OPTIONS AND MAKE THESE DECISIONS. OUR JOB--
EXCEPT THIS TIME, DOESN'T "SMARTER PEOPLE" NEED ANOTHER ADULT IN THE CAR BEFORE SHE CAN DRIVE?
OH, NOW YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT OUR DIRECTOR?
YOUR DIRECTOR. AND DAISY'S FLIPPED OUT OVER RALSTON DYING, WHICH I GET, BUT--
YOU NEED TO STOP RIGHT--
THAT'S ENOUGH, BOTH OF YOU!
YOU CAN BICKER LIKE SCHOOLCHILDREN WHEN WE'RE FINISHED. THEN YOU CAN ASK YOURSELF WHAT IT MEANS, HOW IT WILL PLAGUE YOUR CONSCIENCE FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, WHATEVER SUITS YOUR EGOS--
TRUTH OF IT IS, THOUGH, NEITHER OF YOU NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELVES WITH ANY OF IT--
--SINCE I'LL BE THE ONE TAKING THE SHOT.

YOU VOLUNTEERED YOURSELF.
I TOLD THEM WHAT WOULD BE HAPPENING NEXT, YES.
AND WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
BECAUSE IT MEANT NOTHING TO ME.
FAIR ENOUGH. FROM THERE, YOU USED OUR INTEL TO DETERMINE WHERE THE SOFT SPOT WAS--
"--AND PUT YOURSELVES IN PLAY."

BLACK WIDOW, IN POSITION--
TARGET ACQUIRED.
ROGER THAT, WIDOW. GROUND SUPPORT READY AND WAITING. AIR COVER? THAT'S YOU, HAWKEYE--
YOU IN POSITION?
YEAH... I'M READY.

BUT HE WASN'T. NONE OF US WERE.
I HAVE THE SHOT, AWAITING FINAL AUTHORIZATION.
YOU UNDERSTAND, FURY? *I'M READY.*
WELL, THAT IS WHAT WE SAY, ISN'T IT?
BUT IT IS SO RARELY TRUE.
ZDRAVSTVUJ, NATALIA.
I'M BLOWN. *REPEAT--*

VREMYA UMIRAT'!

AND THAT'S WHEN YOU RECEIVED THE ORDER.
WELL, TECHNICALLY THERE WERE LIKE SEVEN SECONDS THERE.
WIDOW'S COMPROMISED, YOU'RE UP!
NO...
BARTON! TAKE THE SHOT, THAT'S AN ORDER!
DAMN IT.

AND SO YOU DELIBERATELY DISOBEYED A DIRECT ORDER.
HEY, WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME? FIRST THING IT SAYS ON MY DATING PROFILE--
"I DON'T KILL."
"MM. SO, WITH THE SECOND OPPORTUNITY LOST, IT FELL TO YOU--"
AGENT FURY.
CHEESE, WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?
NICK-- I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME ON THIS.
AND YOU KNOW I DO, BUT--
THEN LET'S CONTINUE. TIME IS NOT OUR FRIEND.

I, UH... I THINK THEY SPOTTED ME.
YEAH, IMAGINE THAT.
WE HAVE A PLAN?
SURE. ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN DO WHEN YOU'RE PINNED ON ALL SIDES--
CHARGE FORWARD.
I NEED COVER, HAWKEYE. A LOT OF IT. YOU DON'T WANNA KILL ANYONE, *FINE*--
BLAM
BUT TRY NOT TO LET ME GET KILLED, EITHER.
BLAM
"A ONE-MAN DIRECT FRONTAL ASSAULT."
I FIGURED WE STILL HAD MAYBE THIRTY SECONDS WORTH OF CONFUSION, PLENTY OF TIME TO GET MYSELF KILLED.
BUT THEN IT TURNED OUT TO BE ENOUGH.
YEAH--

"--IT WAS ENOUGH."
BLAM BLAM
WAIT--
FOR WHAT?

SO, I CAN CONFIRM IT WAS YOU WHO KILLED ANDREW FORSON--
"--YOU KILLED THE A.I.M. SCIENTIST SUPREME."
THOSE WERE MY ORDERS.
NOW, ARE YOU GONNA TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
WHERE IS EVERYONE? WHERE'S DIRECTOR JOHNSON?
NICK, I-- I DON'T QUITE KNOW HOW TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT-- DIRECTOR JOHNSON--
SHE ISN'T DIRECTOR JOHNSON ANYMORE.

WELL, I SUPPOSE IT WON'T BE LONG NOW BEFORE WE CAN DROP THE "ACTING" FROM YOUR TITLE--
DIRECTOR HILL.
HELICARRIER *ILIAD.*
POST-OPERATION ID21AF [UA].
THANK YOU, MISTER DALTON. I WISH THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE A BIT BETTER.
AND JOHNSON'S--?
SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY, WITH HER SECURITY CLEARANCE UNDER REVIEW.
HOWEVER, I SHOULD MAKE CLEAR--WHILE SUSPENSION WAS THE RIGHT FIRST STEP TO TAKE, I'D STILL PREFER WE HOLD HER--THERE ARE SECURITY RISKS TO CONSIDER--
CONNECTED
AND AS YOUR INTERIM SECURITY COUNCIL LIAISON, I AM WELL AWARE OF THOSE RISKS, MARIA.
BUT RIGHT NOW THIS COUNCIL IS DEALING WITH A NUMBER OF CRISES, ALL OF WHICH POSE GRAVE DAMAGE TO THE PUBLIC TRUST--
CONNECTED
OUR NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD DIRECTOR-IN-WAITING ORDERED AN UNSANCTIONED AND ILLEGAL OPERATION TO DEPOSE THE DULY APPOINTED LEADER OF A U.N. MEMBER NATION.
AND SHE DID SO IN RESPONSE TO A FIREFIGHT ON U.S. SOIL, ONE VIRTUALLY EVERY EYEWITNESS CONFIRMS SHE HERSELF PROVOKED.
STILL--AS MUCH AS IT MAY BE WARRANTED, THE REALITY IS, PLACING DAISY JOHNSON IN HANDCUFFS WOULD ONLY EXACERBATE THE SITUATION.
CONNECTED
WE'D BE ACCUSED--MOSTLY BY YOUR COUNTRYMEN--OF SIDING WITH WHAT HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, OVER THE PROTEGE OF THE GREAT NICHOLAS FURY, SR. HIMSELF.
NOT TO MENTION THE PERCEPTION WE'D BE DISHONORING SENATOR RALSTON'S MEMORY--

STRATEGIC HOMELAND INTERVENTION ENFORCEMENT LOGISTICS DIVISION
THE HELL WE ARE. WHAT SHE DID BROKE PROTOCOL, FLEW IN THE FACE OF EVERY DIRECTIVE WE HAVE--AND ENDANGERED THIS ENTIRE ORGANIZATION.
SHE'S A RECKLESS KID, AND SHE NEVER SHOULD'VE BEEN IN THAT CHAIR TO BEGIN WITH--
AND ON THAT POINT, YOU PREACH TO THE CHOIR, MARIA. HOWEVER--
IT FALLS UPON US TO PICK UP THE PIECES. BEGINNING WITH OUR FRIENDS AT A.I.M.--AND I MUST TELL YOU, TRYING TO MEDIATE A SOLUTION HERE HAS BEEN A MOST DIFFICULT TASK.
FIRST, WE NEED THEM TO LOOK PAST THIS UNFORTUNATE PROVOCATION, AND THEN WE NEED ASSURANCES THAT NOTHING ALONG THE LINES OF THAT IRON PATRIOT DEBACLE HAPPENS AGAIN.
YEAH, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
OH, WE DON'T NEED LUCK, DIRECTOR. I'M HAPPY TO REPORT A SOLUTION HAS IN FACT BEEN FOUND.
SORRY?
YES--NOW, I'LL WARN YOU, YOU MAY NOT INITIALLY LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS, BUT I'D URGE YOU TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND--
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, I'M PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT THE REPUBLIC OF BARBUDA--A.I.M. ISLAND, AS IT WERE--HAS BEEN NAMED TO A PERMANENT SEAT ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.
WHAT?!
NOW, TO HELP SMOOTH THIS NASTINESS OVER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, I'M BRINGING THEIR REPRESENTATIVE ONLINE NOW...

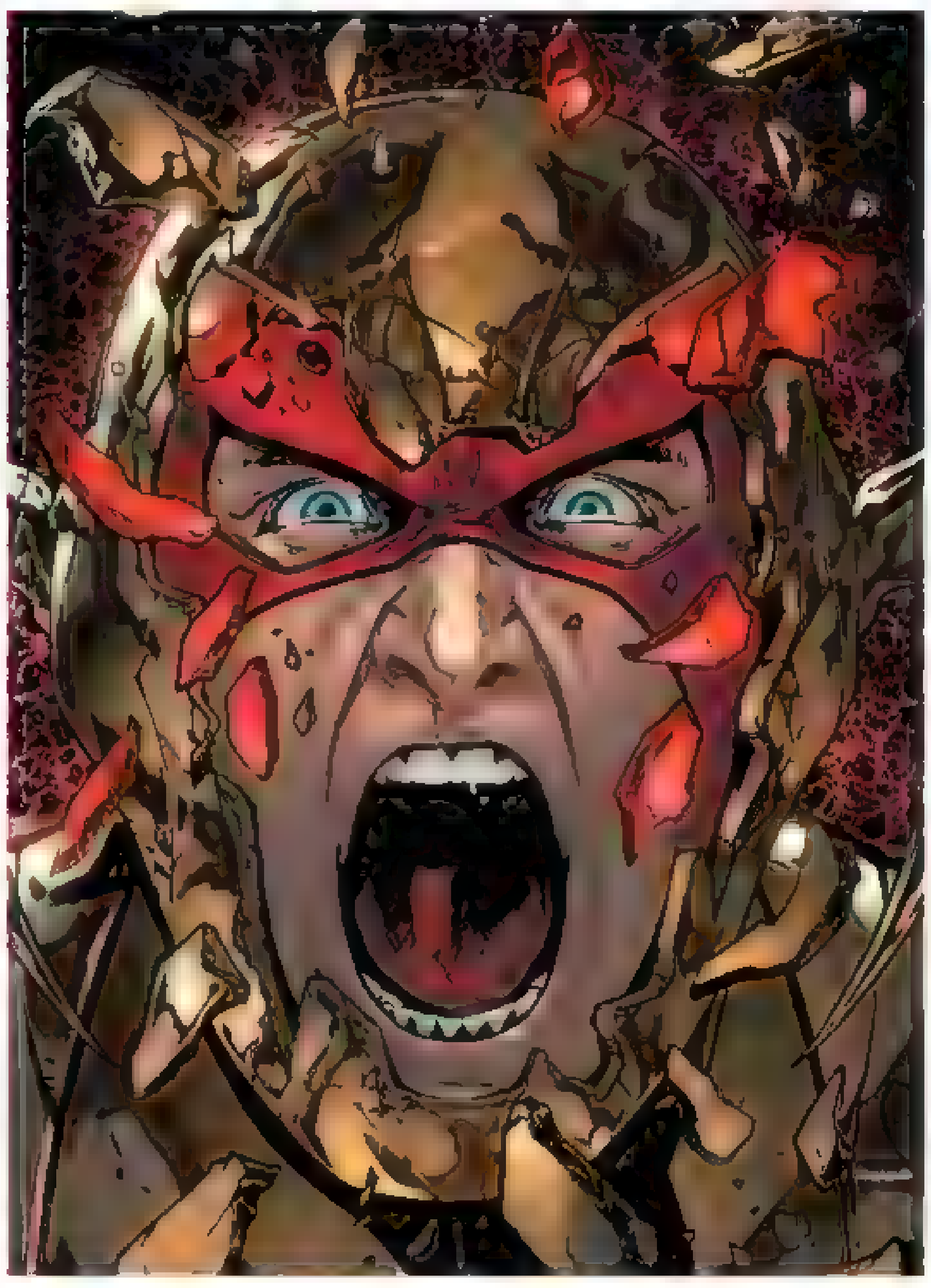
INCOMING
NNECTION...
GOOD EVENING, DIRECTOR HILL! I SUPPOSE CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!
NO...
LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING HOW HONORED I AM TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER WITH YOU IN THIS GRAND UNDERTAKING. IT TRULY IS AN HISTORIC MOMENT, AFTER ALL.
S.H.I.E.L.D. AND A.I.M. WORKING TOGETHER AGAIN, SIDE BY SIDE. I MUST ADMIT--
ECTED
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THE DAY.
U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:
DR. ANDREW FORSON, A.I.M. SCIENTIST SUPREME

NEXT: WHAT *REALLY* HAPPENED ON A.I.M. ISLAND!

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

This is the month that everything comes to a head in **AGE OF ULTRON #10**—and Avengers fans in particular will want to check out the aftermath in AGE OF ULTRON #10AI! Writer Mark Waid teams with artist Andre Araujo to tell the definitive story of Hank Pym's formative years, and to position him for the future! It's also the entry point into next month's big **AVENGERS A.I.** launch—so you don't want to get caught napping! (And it wouldn't kill you to keep an eye on AOU #10 as well, for relevant developments in the world of Earth's Mightiest Heroes!)



Hey, didja happen to catch this year's MTV Movie Awards! Marvel Studios' own **MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS** film took home a hat trick's worth of Golden Popcorn statues, for Best Fight, Best Villain (Tom Hiddleston as Loki), and Movie of the Year! Director Joss Whedon was on hand along with Tom, Chris Evans and Samuel L. Jackson to accept the honors, and to tease 2015's **MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS** sequel as well! It's going to be a long wait—but we'll bide our time by taking in another showing of Shane Black's **IRON MAN 3** in the meantime!

Well, we asked for it, and you certainly delivered! No sooner had our call for votes concerning which AVENGERS title was the best gone out than our e-mailbox was flooded with responses! Here's where things stand at the moment:

Favorite Series: **UNCANNY AVENGERS** has the lead, with **NEW AVENGERS** close behind, and **AVENGERS** and **SECRET AVENGERS** tied for third (plus write-in votes for **HAWKEYE** and **ALL-NEW X-MEN**—Brian!!!)

Favorite Writer: Jonathan Hickman, with Rick Remender and Kieron Gillen nipping at his heels.

Favorite Artist: A neck-and-neck race between John Cassaday, Steve Epting and Stefano Caselli.

Rick Magyar's walked away with the **Favorite Inker** category, Justin Ponsor, Rain Beredo and Matt Wilson are dueling it out for **Favorite Colorist,** and absolutely everybody loves the typography of Cory Petit on letters!

We're not quite ready to call this one over just yet, so there's still time for you to cast a vote if you've not already done so—just drop us a line at the address at the bottom of this page!

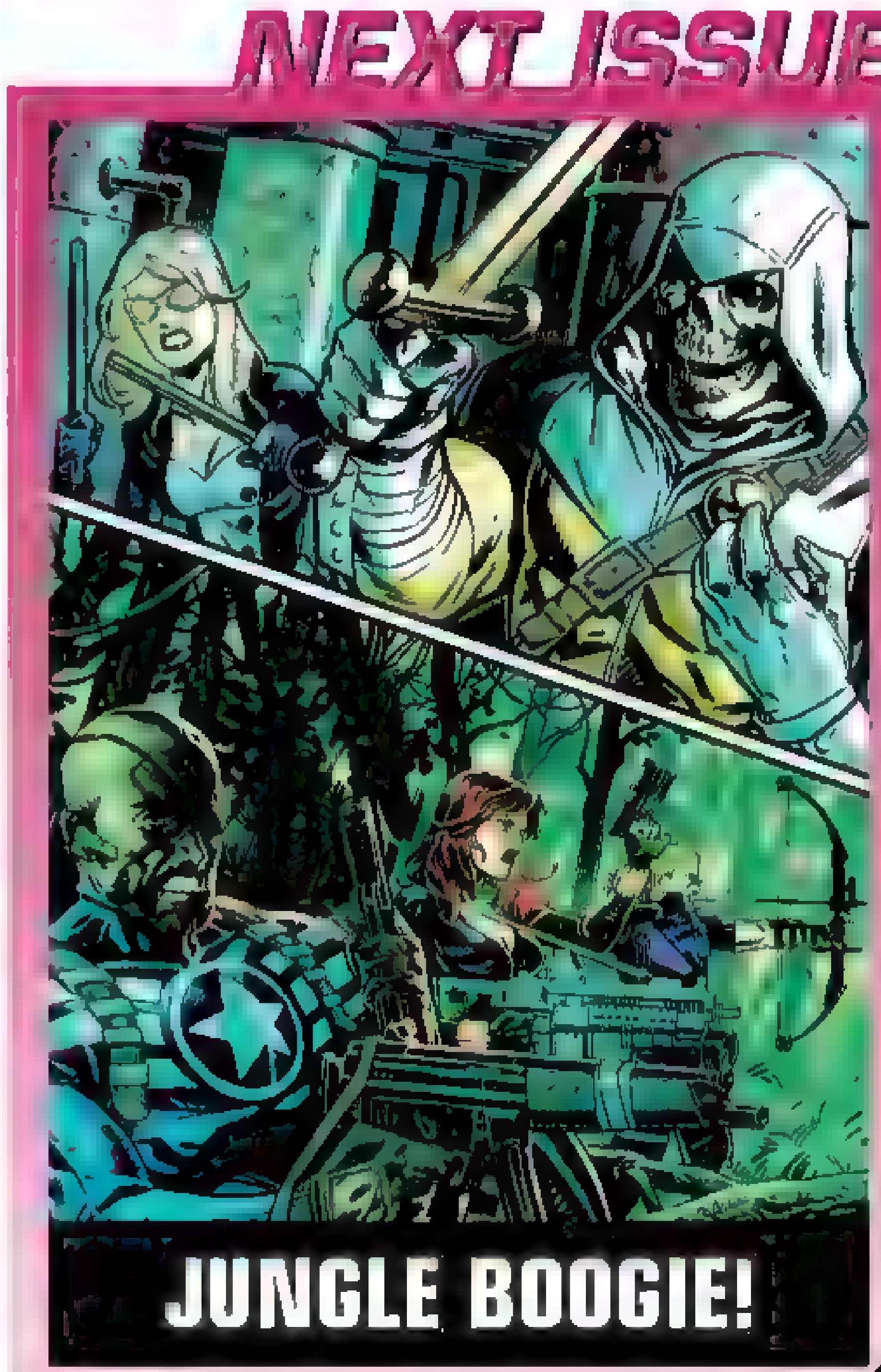
Finally, here's a young Avengers fan who could use everybody's good wishes:

Allow me to introduce Joshua Gabriel "Gabe" Lyall. Most of the time he is a typical 4-year-old boy with the ability to morph into any super hero that is needed. Our family has received the "Hulk Smash," a web from Spider-Man and protection from the shield of Captain America. Wolverine has also made an appearance to ward off the enemy when needed. March 23rd, 2013 our Super Hero began a battle for his life after being diagnosed with Stage 4 Hepatoblastoma (a rare liver cancer in children). This young soul has brought a small community together, strengthening each of us by his heroic example and bravery. He truly is our Super Hero who deserves his spot with his Marvel family. Keep the faith and fight the great fight....we'll all be here when this battle is over to welcome our Super Hero Gabe home. We love you!

From A Very Grateful Heart,
Mary Ann "Sissy Bird" Robinson

We'll keep Gabe in our prayers and hope for a speedy recovery!

NEXT ISSUE:



JUNGLE BOOGIE!

AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS #13 ☐
THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY UNLEASHES TERMINUS ON THE AVENGERS!

AVENGERS #14 ☐
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! FROM SPACE, SOMETHING IS COMING...

AVENGERS ARENA #10 ☐
THE LAST STAND OF NICO OF THE RUNAWAYS!

AVENGERS ARENA #11 ☐
WILL ROMANCE BLOSSOM BETWEEN REPTIL AND HAZMAT?

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #16 ☐
THE ENEMY WITHIN! THE ARCHITECT OF CAPTAIN MARVEL'S TROUBLES REVEALED!

CAPTAIN MARVEL #13 ☐
THE ENEMY WITHIN! CAROL'S PAST IS HAUNTING HER!

NEW AVENGERS #7 ☐
PRELUDE TO INFINITY! IT'S WAR BETWEEN THE BLACK PANTHER AND THE SUB-MARINER!

SECRET AVENGERS #5 ☐
WILL THE AVENGERS ASSASSINATE THE LEADER OF A.I.M.?

UNCANNY AVENGERS #9 ☐
WHO ARE THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF DEATH?

YOUNG AVENGERS #6 ☐
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO SPEED? NOT TO MENTION PRODIGY!

A + X #9 ☐
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND WOLVERINE! SCARLET WITCH AND DOMINO!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS: EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES #15 ☐

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! E-MAIL US AT: **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM.** PLEASE MARK ALL E-MAILS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**

MARVEL NOW! POINT ONE™

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

AR

001

POINT ONE

NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. in

NYSE

WRITER: **NICK SPENCER**
ARTIST: **LUKE ROSS**
COLOR ARTIST: **LEE LOUGHRIDGE**
LETTERER: **VC'S CLAYTON COWLES**
EDITORS: **THOMAS, SANKOVITCH & BREVOORT**

STAR-LORD in

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

WRITER: **BRIAN BENDIS**
PENCILER: **STEVE MCNIVEN**
INKER: **JOHN DELL**
COLORIST: **JUSTIN PONSOR**
LETTERER: **VC'S CORY PETIT**
EDITORS: **AMANAT & WACKER**

NOVA in

DIAMONDHEAD

WRITER: **JEPH LOEB**
PENCILER: **ED MCGUINNESS**
INKER: **DEXTER VINES**
COLORIST: **MARTE GRACIA**
LETTERER: **COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE**
EDITORS: **AMANAT & WACKER**

MISS AMERICA in

THE NEW WORLD

WRITER: **KIERON GILLEN**
ARTISTS: **JAMIE MCKELVIE WITH MIKE NORTON**
COLOR ARTIST: **MATTHEW WILSON**
LETTERER: **VC'S CLAYTON COWLES**
EDITORS: **THOMAS & SANKOVITCH**

ANT-MAN in

IT'S ART!

WRITER: **MATT FRACTION**
ARTIST: **MICHAEL ALLRED**
COLOR ARTIST: **LAURA ALLRED**
LETTERER: **VC'S CLAYTON COWLES**
EDITORS: **THOMAS, SANKOVITCH & BREVOORT**

FORGE in

CRAZY ENOUGH

WRITER: **DENNIS HOPELESS**
ART: **GABRIEL HERNANDEZ WALTA**
COLOR ARTIST: **DAVID CURIEL**
LETTERER: **VC'S JOE SABINO**
EDITORS: **WHITE & LOWE**

AXEL ALONSO•EDITOR IN CHIEF **JOE QUESADA**•CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER **DAN BUCKLEY**•PUBLISHER **ALAN FINE**•EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

© 2013 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

LOT OF *STAIRS.* ESPECIALLY--
ESPECIALLY WHEN WE WALK THEM AFTER WE GET PULLED FROM THE LEVIATHAN OP, COMMANDER HILL.
TOLD YOU ON THE LINK, AGENT FURY. NEW APPOINTMENT. SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE.
WELL AS LONG AS I KNOW WHAT'S *GOING ON,* THEN.
YOU'RE HERE TO MAKE A NEW FRIEND. THIS WAY--
"THE STRANGER IN THE BASEMENT SHOWED UP ON THE FLOOR OF THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE AT 0900. HE STARTS PUTTING IN TICKETS ON BEHALF OF A DOZEN OR SO MINOR HEDGE FUNDS.
"HE PLAYS A PERFECT GAME. *TOO PERFECT.* BY 1100, HIS BUYS ARE BEING FOLLOWED BY EVERY BROKER WITH A PHONE LINE.
"HE ESSENTIALLY TAKES CONTROL OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY IN THREE HOURS' TIME, MOVING ABOUT FIVE BILLION EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES ONCE YOU GET TO THREE DEGREES OUT.
"WE PICKED HIM UP, OBVIOUSLY. ALL IDENTIFICATION AND CREDENTIALS WERE MANUFACTURED."
S.H.I.E.L.D. POLICES THE *STOCK MARKET* NOW?
WE POLICE GOOD FEELINGS AND HAPPY HOMES IF IT KEEPS BOMBS FROM GOING OFF WHERE WE DON'T WANT THEM TO GO OFF, AGENT COULSON.
SO HE DID THIS *HOW?*
HE'S FROM THE *FUTURE.* NEARLY A HUNDRED YEARS UP ON US, HE TOLD THE AGENTS WHO GRABBED HIM.
WE *BELIEVE* THIS?
IT'S NOT AS RARE AS YOU'D THINK. THE VERIFICATION PROCESS WAS IMPRESSIVE.
THE THINGS I'M STILL LEARNING. SO THE MAN WHO FELL TO NOW SHOWS UP. WHY AM I INVOLVED?
WE WANT *INFORMATION.*
RIGHT. WELL, SEE, MARIA, I'M A *FIELD AGENT.* AND MY *FIELD* ISN'T ENHANCED INTERROGATION. SO I HOPE YOU DON'T EXPECT--
HE ASKED FOR YOU. THAT'S WHY. *YOU.* NO ONE ELSE.

MUST BE NICE TO BE WANTED.
NICK FURY! IN THE FLESH. *AMAZING.*
PLEASE, STAY SEATED. PLEASURE'S ALL--
THIS IS GOOD. I WASN'T SURE IF YOU STILL HAD THE *EYE.*
I DO. IT'S THE OTHER ONE THAT'S GONE MISSING. NOW, I UNDERSTAND YOU WANTED TO HAVE A CONVERSATION, AND I'M SURE YOU KNOW WE DO, TOO, *MISTER--?*
OF COURSE! YOU WANT ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE. *FROM THE FUTURE.* HEH.
SEEMS FAIR. WE HAD A LONG FLIGHT. TURBULENCE, EVEN.
WHY IS *HE* HERE?
COULSON? HE KEEPS ME *SANE.*
HH. WELL, YOU ARE IN LUCK, I AM, IN FACT, IN A GIVING MOOD.
DAY YOU'VE HAD, WHO WOULDN'T BE?
I WANT TO TELL YOU THINGS THAT ARE *IMPORTANT.* I WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT'S COMING. BUT YOU--YOU WON'T LISTEN. I WANT TO TELL YOU THE *REAL* DANGERS. NOT THE DISTRACTIONS YOU AND YOUR KIND BUSY YOURSELVES WITH.
WELL, WE'RE SIMPLE, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT. TAKE A SHOT, THOUGH.

TODAY, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS THE LEADING AND LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD. BY THE DAY I'M BORN, YOU'LL BE *SEVENTH.*
UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION WILL FLOW *TOWARDS* MEXICO RATHER THAN AWAY FROM IT. THE CHILDREN WHO MAKE YOUR SHOES WILL WEAR THEM AS THEY WALK ALL OVER YOU, *LAUGHING.* THE VULTURES YOU BEGGED TO PICK YOU CLEAN, *WILL.*
171
YOUR LONG NATIONAL NIGHTMARE IS ONE OF THOSE ONES YOU THINK YOU'VE WOKEN UP FROM, BUT HAVEN'T. THERE ARE CITIES BENEATH YOUR FEET, FULL OF SLEEPING SOULS, WAITING TO RISE UP AND CLAIM YOU.
THIS VISIT IS THE DOCTOR TELLING YOU IT'S SIX MONTHS, IF YOU'RE LUCKY.
ANYTHING FOR SPORTS BETTORS?
HE DIES *VERY* BADLY.
EASY, FRIEND. NOT SOMEWHERE YOU WANT TO VISIT.
I APOLOGIZE. I'M NOT HERE AS A THREAT. I'M HERE AS A SERVICE. THE MAN WHO KNOWS HIS PAST CONTROLS HIS FUTURE. *REMEMBER THAT.*
I'LL TRY.
SEE, THAT'S WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS MOMENT IN TIME. YOU'VE STILL GOT THE *ARROGANCE.* YOU'RE ANGRY, BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHY. YOU HAVEN'T COME TO GRIPS WITH WHERE YOU ARE YET.
ACCEPTANCE IS THE LAST STAGE, AFTER ALL. YOU NEED TIME. AND I COULD GIVE YOU *SO* MUCH. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING--
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WAITING FOR YOU UP IN THE STARS.

YOU FLEW SO BRIGHT AND SO FAST FOR SUCH A SHORT WHILE. THAT ALONE MAKES IT WORTH THE VISIT, IF YOU ASK ME. THE HEROIC AGE! WHAT GUSTO.
OF COURSE, YOU SPENT MOST OF THAT TIME BEATING THE HELL OUT OF EACH OTHER, BUT HEY, IT WOULDN'T BE THE PAST IF THERE WEREN'T PRIMITIVES, RIGHT?
I'M NOT ONE TO JUDGE. WHERE I COME FROM, THINGS AREN'T ALL THAT DIFFERENT. WE'RE JUST MORE... SUBTLE ABOUT THESE THINGS.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL ME ABOUT THAT, THEN.
WHERE'S HE GOING WITH THIS? WHAT'S THE BENEFIT? GET ME FILES. KANG, IMMORTUS, WHATEVER. WHOEVER. TIME PEOPLE.
TIME PEOPLE?
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. EVERYONE FROM H.G. WELLS FORWARD, I DON'T CARE.
THAT-- THAT'LL BE A BIG STACK...
WHICH TELLS YOU EVERYTHING THAT'S WRONG WITH MY WORLD THESE DAYS.
ONE GENERATION AT A TIME, YES? BEFORE YOU GET TO US, YOU'VE GOT YEARS AND YEARS TO GET THROUGH. THE ASCENDANT, NEXT. AND MANY REIGNS TO COME...
OH, AND ALL THE LITTLE ONES, SO EAGER TO MAKE NAMES FOR THEMSELVES. IT'S ADORABLE. I TELL YOU, NICK--
THEY REALLY DO GROW UP SO FAST.

TINY PACKAGES. ALWAYS THE BEST SURPRISES.
THIS IS INSPIRING STUFF. MAYBE WE CAN TALK THREATS AT THIS POINT, THOUGH-- I'M GETTING A BIT COMFORTABLE.
›SIGH‹... I ALREADY TOLD YOU--
I COULD WARN YOU, BUT IT'S NOT IN YOUR NATURE TO LISTEN.
ISN'T THAT JUST TERRIFYING, THOUGH? WE ALL THINK, AFTER SOME HORROR BEFALLS US, "IF ONLY WE'D KNOWN!" "IF ONLY WE COULD'VE SEEN WHERE WE'D END UP!"
BUT ALMOST EVERY GREAT TRAGEDY IN MAN'S HISTORY, YOU COULD SEE COMING A MILE DOWN THE ROAD. NOBODY CARED. NOBODY STOPPED. VICIOUS CYCLES, I'M TELLING YOU.
IT'S A THANKLESS JOB, PROPHET. AMAZING ANYONE BOTHERS--
BUT THEN I'M NOT THE ONLY DROP-IN FROM THE FUTURE TRYING TO SAVE EVERYONE FROM THEMSELVES, NOW AM I?
MAYBE THE TWO OF YOU COULD TALK EYEPATCHES. BOND.

NOW *THAT* CERTAINLY DID THE TRICK, DIDN'T IT? YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL THE HAIRS ON THE BACK OF THE NECK PERK UP, ALL THE WAY IN THE NEXT ROOM.
BUT THAT'S NOT EVEN THE BEST I'VE GOT. YOU WANT TO SEE SOMETHING ***REALLY*** GOOD?
MM.
KOBIK.
TOLD YOU.
WAIT--
COMMANDER HILL, YOU THERE?
GO, NICK.
IT'S NOT *HIM.* IT'S NOT--
IT'S ***INSIDE*** HIM.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO--
BLAM

HOW?
PUPIL DILATION. ADJUSTING HIS EYES EVERY TIME HE TOOK OVER A NEW BODY.
GOOD NOTICE. AND YOU'RE SURE WE GOT HIM?
NO ONE IS SHOOTING ANYONE ANYMORE.
YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO.
HELL.
PUTTING THE GUNS IN THE ROOM WITH HIM TURNED OUT TO BE A BAD IDEA.
THESE WERE GOOD MEN.
GOOD MEN WHO DIED BECAUSE OF A WORD. *"KOBIK?"* DO I GET SOME KIND OF BACKGROUND ON THAT?
IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT THE *AVENGERS* INITIATIVE.
YOU WILL. BOTH OF YOU WILL. THAT'S YOUR NEXT MISSION, ACTUALLY--

FOR A LISTING OF MORE MARVEL COLLECTIONS, DOWNLOAD

MARVEL
BACKLIST
READING
CHRONOLOGY
MARVEL
www.marvel.com
TM & © 2011 MARVEL & SUBS

Go to your local comic shop to pick up these great collections!
And stay tuned to the Marvel App for more amazing collection releases.
To find a comic shop near you visit www.comicshoplocator.com